

To Committee Chair Representative Becker-Finn, Vice Chair Representative Frazier, and members of the Committee,

My name is Rachel Dick and I am a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. I am writing in support of HF 366. The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act is exactly the type of bold and compassionate legislature that our state needs to be a leader in providing access to reproductive care.

Much of the discussion around the Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act was centered on the fall of Roe v. Wade, which was a cataclysmic event in American history. However, the passage of SB 8 in Texas was equally as frightening to me. This bounty law authorized any person to file a civil lawsuit against any person who aids or abets in an abortion, with a \$10,000 payout if they're successful. It immediately had a chilling effect on access to abortion even before the Supreme Court ruled in the Dobbs decision. SB 8 recently suffered a setback in state court in San Antonio, but we are still living at the mercy of these high-stakes legal decisions, which can change outcomes with alarming speed. Minnesota needs to act affirmatively to protect our citizens, and the people who travel here seeking care, from the punitive whims of lawmakers and courts in other states.

In Minnesota, we know that abortion is healthcare. We are good neighbors, and part of being a good neighbor includes keeping the people around us safe. Today, that means passing HF 366 to protect women, trans men, and anyone in need of reproductive health care – Minnesotan or non-Minnesotan – from being targeted by subpoenas and civil action from other states. It means protecting our physicians from the threat of losing their license for providing care, which is one very small way to repay them for the sacrifices they make for us. We shouldn't have to fear legal punishment for exercising the abortion rights that our legislature just enshrined into law. Connecticut and New York have recently passed similar shield laws. Let's join them on the right side of history and advance HF 366.

Thank you,

Rachel Dick
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