

Testimony against HF 91 Repeal of Abortion Reporting Requirements Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

Minnesota has had abortion reporting requirements since 1998. These reporting requirements were **not** found unconstitutional by the Ramsey court case this past summer. They are presumably currently enforced law by our state's Attorney General and Department of Health. HF91/SF70 is not "simply cleaning up" statutes; it is actively repealing current, enforced law that was specifically **not** ruled "unconstitutional."

There are many reasons that Minnesotans should continue to have the right to this public information. This is not private information on private individuals, but aggregate information on what the abortion industry wants to call healthcare. We collect as a state a good deal of aggregate public health data on many much less invasive and potentially harmful procedures.

Because Minnesota taxpayers are required by our Supreme Court to pay for public assistance abortions, it seems fitting we know how many such abortions we are paying for and what percentage of our annual budget this represents. It also seems fitting we should know the number and severity of abortion complications, as these likely **increase** taxpayer dollars needed for public assistance health care.

Planned Parenthood readily admits and legislators are fully aware that abortion facilities in Minnesota are not licensed or inspected; our legislature has spent several years trying to change that and require licensing and inspection of these stand-alone medical and surgical facilities. Without these common-sense reporting requirements, abortion facilities will operate under a cloak of darkness. Removing the requirement to report complications jeopardizes the health of women for many reasons, one of which would be that it impedes medical professionals from having any access to statewide data that might help them reduce and avoid these complications.

The growing use of chemical abortions presents additional risks to women's health that call for complications to be reported. Chemical abortions have a high complication rate: 5.9% of women had dangerous incomplete abortions in a British meta-study, and an additional 2.4% had excessive bleeding. Incomplete abortion can lead to infection, sepsis, and death. Both Britain and Sweden found that chemical abortions have such high complication rates that they both rescinded their previous approval allowing chemical abortions without a doctor's visit and returned to the better medical practice of requiring one for the protection of the woman. Unfortunately, in the U.S., the Food and Drug Administration recently dropped the doctor's visit requirement, ensuring there will be a stream of serious complications, as happened in Britain and Sweden. Another study in Finland showed four times the complication rate from chemical abortions than from surgical; a full 20 percent of women suffered complications from chemical abortions. If the same percentage followed in Minnesota, that would mean over 1200

women in 2021 would have suffered complications (61% of Minnesota's 10,136 abortions were chemical abortions in 2021)

We know that over the many years of annual abortion reports from the Department of Health that it does sometimes happen that a baby is born alive despite the attempted abortion. Removing the requirement that abortionists report these babies and report what care was given to them allows them to easily set aside these living, breathing, helpless patients to simply die, with nobody the wiser.

Collecting data would also shed light on the continuing discrimination in abortion that results in significantly higher percentages of African-American and Hispanic babies being killed by abortion than the general public. It also helps us see trends in abortions on minors, allowing programs to be developed to address this adverse trend.

Minnesota taxpayers have the right to know how their tax dollars are being used. The Abortion Reporting Requirements in Minnesota law provide this transparency, something the abortionists in Minnesota do not want but taxpayers do.

Complications increase from medical abortions in Finland:

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19888037>

Complications increase from medical abortions in Sweden:

<https://bmcwomenshealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12905-018-0645-6>

Increased health risks of chemical abortion drugs.

<https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Deaths-and-Severe-Adverse-Events-after-the-use-of-Mifepristone-as-an-Abortifacient-from-September-2000-to-February-2019-copy5.pdf>