

3/27/2023

To the Health Finance and Policy Committee,

I am a parent of four children in the state of Minnesota. I am invested in the education of children in this state as a school board member, teacher, volunteer with children and a degree in youth studies which has given me the opportunity to work with youth of all ages.

I am addressing the House bill HF 2930 and I oppose the School based health center portion of this bill and the Family planning grants.

My first opposition to this bill is found in lines 11.4-11.16, and 103.24-105.25. As a parent, I strongly oppose school based health centers. This is a very dangerous addition to the bill that oversteps a government's authority and infringes on parental rights. This bill would allow for a huge variety of health services without limitations or restrictions to take place on the premises of a school or a specific location in the school district without parental consent or knowledge. Services including but not limited to vaccinations on children without parental consent or knowledge, abortion services, gender affirming care including and not limited to extremely harmful, irreversible drugs or surgeries, experimental mental health services, contraception, prescriptions administered without parental knowledge or consent just to name a few very concerning health care options available through this bill.

A “sponsoring organization” opens the door to all kinds of organizations and gives them access to our children, that parents absolutely do not want to have access to our children such as planned parenthood. The language of this bill in regards to a sponsoring organization also opens the door for these “sponsoring organizations” to be able to collect health data on our children without parental consent and knowledge. As in many grants a “authorized representative” for any organization has access to all student data without parental knowledge or permission hidden in the language of school grants. This is unacceptable.

School is a place to learn math and science and how to read and write. It is NOT a medical facility nor is it a counseling center or a professional therapist office. Our children in Minnesota are failing at reading, math and science. It is time to remember and get back to the foundation and core principle of why schools exist, that is to teach our children. Nothing else! According to the State of Minnesota’s report card from 2022 out of all students in the state only 44.8% are meeting the State’s standards in Math, 51.1% in

reading and 41.3% in science. Yet, legislators continue to legislate against educating children in these areas.

I also oppose all of the changes made in lines 105.26-109.26. I oppose all the changes in these lines in regards to the family planning grants. No grant money should be used on abortion. It is wrong to intentionally kill an innocent human being. Abortion kills an innocent human being. Therefore, abortion is the intentional killing of a human being. It is of crucial importance that lines 106.18-106.22 be added back into this bill and grant money not to be used to kill innocent human beings through abortion.

I am asking that you add back into this bill lines 106.33-107. As a parent I oppose the use of any grant money to be used to come into schools and educate children on the kind of family planning outlined in this section of the bill, including teaching children that it is ok to kill innocent human beings through the means of abortion. Going back to my point earlier, schools are a place to learn how to read and write, and to learn math and science. School is not the place to override parental authority and teach sex education of this kind to children that goes against family values and morals.

Lines 107.32-108.3 also need to be added back into the bill. It is unthinkable that the legislators in the state of Minnesota continue time and time again to attempt to strip away parental rights. My children can not go on a school field trip without my permission, they can not get their ears pierced without my permission, they can not learn how to drive a car without my permission, they can't leave my house or skip school without my permission, they can not play a sport or activity without my permission. Yet, the legislators in the State of Minnesota want to strip my parental rights away when it comes to my child's health care and the kind of education they receive. Now, is the time that this stops.

I strongly urge you to oppose these sections of the bill to the fullest extent possible.

Thank you,
Natalie Kasper
Dakota County, Minnesota