



Representative Liz Reyer
575 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

I'm writing to you to encourage you to support HF712 regarding an increase to the Minnesota Family Planning Special Projects grants.

Outlook Clinics have been in existence since 1984, providing affordable, accessible family planning services in east central Minnesota.

Funding through the Minnesota Family Planning Special Projects (FPSP) grants has made these services available to low-income, under-insured patients in an area of the state that has a high proportion of families living in poverty.

Ada's Story

In 1988, Ada was a teenager living with her parents on a farm in rural Kanabec County. Her parents were farmers and had no medical insurance that would cover birth control services. With the help of her mother, they learned about services available at Outlook Clinic. She started on a contraceptive method and remained a patient at Outlook Clinic for many years.

In 2013 she came to Outlook Clinic to thank the staff for "keeping her from getting pregnant throughout her high school and college years". This enabled her to continue her education. She had now completed graduate school and was a nurse practitioner, looking to "pay it forward" to other adolescents and young adults who were in similar situations as she had been as a teenager.

Outlook hired her as a nurse practitioner and to this day, she provides the quality contraceptive care to others in need, that she once received from the clinic.

Outlook currently employs five staff members who were former patients at the clinic. All are committed to providing the quality care they once received. Outlook's services would not be available to patients in need without funding through the FPSP grant program.

Outlook is encouraging the state to increase funding for this valuable program, as funding has fallen far short of the need for these services.

Thank you for your past and on-going support of the Minnesota Family Planning Special Projects program.

Betty Nelson
Executive Director, Outlook Health Services