The Minnesota Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

March 16, 2017

Representative Mary Franson

545 State Office Building

100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Franson:

I am writing today as the Chair of the Minnesota Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists to express my concerns related to ***H.F***. ***809***. The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists is the premiere national organization committed to improving health care for women through practice, research, and advocacy on issues related to women's health care. Current Minnesota law ensures that all women, regardless of their financial situation, will have access to the full range of reproductive health services. HF 809 effectively targets low-income women and limits their access to safe and legal health care treatment.

From a legal standpoint, enacting this law would place an *undue burden* on low-income women who try to obtain reproductive services. Thus, this legislation also risks Minnesota State funds that will become necessary to defend a legal challenge as has happened in other states with laws that arbitrarily attempt to limit access to health care.

Instead of legislation such as this, which targets low income women, I urge you to consider legislation that targets the problem that leads women to consider an abortion – unplanned or unintended pregnancies. Education and expanding services that provide reliable contraceptive methods, especially long acting reversible methods such as implants and IUDs, would be a much more effective way to reduce the number of abortions in Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas J. Creedon, MD, PhD, FACOG

Chair, Minnesota Section, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

CC: Members, Health and Human Services Finance Committee

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