



Together for health and choice

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Representative Tina Liebling  
477 State Office Building  
St. Paul, MN 55155

March 28, 2023

Chair Liebling,

On behalf of WE Health Clinic (WHC), I submit this written testimony in support of an increase to Minnesota Medical Assistance (MA) payment rates for abortion and abortion-related services through support of HF 1170.

WE Health Clinic is an independent and non-profit sexual, reproductive and abortion health care clinic located in Duluth, Minnesota. Abortions make up the majority of WHC's services. The payments received from MN MA for abortion-care is only a fraction of the actual cost to deliver these services. In 2022 46% of WHC patients used MN MA, meaning for nearly half of our services provided, the clinic operated at a net-loss.

In 2019 WHC completed a cost-analysis study to determine the actual cost of providing abortions, our clinic fees are based on this study. The cost for an in-clinic suction or medication abortion less than 11 weeks in gestational age is \$700 – with a typical MN MA payment received being around \$240. For telehealth medication abortions the cost is \$400 – with MN MA payments received being less than \$60, not even covering the cost of the medications themselves.

In 2022 WE Health Clinic's loss on MN MA surpassed \$150,000. As a small clinic these losses have a significant effect on WHC's financial well-being and its ability to continue offering these vital services. To ensure abortion access for all, WHC has not and will never place a cap on the number of MN MA patients we serve, despite this financial hardship.

If Minnesota is striving to be a state with meaningful access to abortion-care it must provide adequate compensation for the work of abortion clinics. WHC supports HF 1170.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paulina Briggs'.

Paulina Briggs  
Executive Director – WE Health Clinic

