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

January 18th, 2023

Chair Liebling:

Gender Justice is the organizational home of UnRestrict Minnesota, an expansive, diverse, and inclusive coalition for reproductive rights, health, and justice. UnRestrict Minnesota is a multi-racial coalition of health care clinics, abortion funds, practical support groups, LGBTQ advocacy groups, faith communities, organizers, lawyers, doulas, and many more.

Our coalition represents the majority of Minnesotans. Minnesotans have made their support for abortion rights abundantly clear — including by sending to the legislature our state's first pro-reproductive-freedom majority ever.

We are writing in support of SF289, the Positive Pregnancies Support Act. We believe that every pregnant person and family — no matter whether they plan to continue or end a pregnancy, and regardless of their pregnancy outcome — needs support without conditions, information without bias or restrictions, and resources that meet their needs.

There are great organizations throughout Minnesota that offer a full range of resources and reliable information to pregnant people. But under current Minnesota law, organizations have to actively discourage people from ending a pregnancy to get state funding — and millions of taxpayer dollars are going to “Crisis Pregnancy Centers” — clinics pretending to offer a full-range of reproductive health services but run by anti-abortion activists who use deception and coercion to try to prevent people from seeking abortion care.

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act would bring the law back into line with the values of the people of Minnesota and the worthy objective of offering pregnant people and new parents robust, unconditional support. Doing so would expand the resources and information available through state-funded programs and end the harm caused by state funding of fake clinics and deceptive practices aimed at imposing an anti-abortion agenda.

A recent study found that fake pregnancy support clinics outnumber full spectrum reproductive health clinics in Minnesota 11 to 1.

- These fake clinics were found to make false claims about abortion at twice the rate of other states.

- They promote “abortion pill reversal” — an untested medical procedure that the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists called “unethical” and “not based in science.” (In fact, the only study of the procedure ever done was halted halfway through because a quarter of the study’s patients were hospitalized for severe bleeding.)
- They disproportionately target low-income people and pregnant people of color.
- They engage in unregulated surveillance of their patients — a terrifying prospect as the criminalization of abortion continues to spread nationwide.

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act would stop any organization from using taxpayer dollars to manipulate, surveil, or deceive pregnant people, and ensure that money instead goes to evidence-based care and support services. We urge you to pass HF 289 so that we can advance the Positive Pregnancies Support Act to bring Minnesota’s reproductive health laws and policies into line with the values of the people of this state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Megan Peterson
Executive Director, Gender Justice