The Minnesota Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

March 16, 2017

Representative Debra Kiel

537 State Office Building

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

St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Representative Kiel:

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 ***HF 812***. 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. HF 812 stands to insert legislative interference into the physician-patient relationship and to limit women’s access to safe and legal health care treatment.

There is currently no medical or ethical basis for this legislation. There is extensive evidence regarding the safety of pregnancy termination procedures and any providers who perform terminations already have regulation and oversight through the Minnesota Board of Medical Practice. This legislation, therefore, provides no meaningful benefit and stands only to restrict access to care for women. The U.S. Supreme Court, in June 2016, struck down a similar Texas law because it places an undue burden on women. Thus, this legislation also risks Minnesota State funds that will become necessary to defend a legal challenge that will almost certainly follow if this legislation is enacted.

Limiting the access to legal healthcare will also have the unintended consequence of putting women at risk for unsafe procedures as happened in Texas following the legislation that was eventually overturned. No one wants to see more abortions, but instead of legislation such as this, which I believe will make women less safe, 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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