

Pro-Choice Minnesota *presents:*

UNRESTRICT MINNESOTA

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LOBBY DAY

Friday, March 25th, 2022 • #UnRestrictMN



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WHY ARE WE HERE?

With the Supreme Court poised to gut, overturn, or weaken *Roe v. Wade* it's more important than ever that we protect and expand abortion access in Minnesota.

Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day is the opportunity to make your voice heard! Today you will be able to let your legislators know how much support there is for reproductive freedom legislation in Minnesota. You will get the resources and training you need to be equipped to talk to your state legislator about why reproductive freedom and bodily autonomy are critical for your health, livelihood, and future. You will also share information and messaging tips with your pro-reproductive freedom legislator to ensure they are well prepared to stand up for Minnesotans right to make their own healthcare decisions, and not make those decisions for us. We want our legislators to stand up for what Minnesotans really need, and not make those decisions without us.

We know that it will take all of us working together, and with our lawmakers, to ensure that Minnesotans have unrestricted access to abortion care and full reproductive freedom.

PRIMARY GOALS:

- Demonstrate the overwhelming public support for reproductive freedom in Minnesota.
- Bolster legislator's confidence to proactively speak about abortion.
- Ask your legislators if they will support and co-author the Patients' Right to Know Act.
- Show our legislators the power and diversity of our coalition.
- Share our Reproductive Justice Legislative Agenda.

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE OVERVIEW

Quick Facts About the Minnesota Legislature

- The Minnesota Legislature is composed of two chambers, the Senate and the House
 - There are 67 senators
 - 34 members of the Republican Caucus
 - 31 members of the DFL Caucus
 - 2 Independents
 - There are 134 representatives in the House
 - 59 members of the Republican Caucus
 - 4 members of the New Republican Caucus
 - 1 Republican with no caucus
 - 69 members of the DFL Caucus
 - 1 Independent
 - Because Republicans compose a majority of the Senate, and DFLers (Democrats) control a majority of the House, *Minnesota has what is considered a divided government*. It is one of only a handful of states that can claim this.
 - Neither chamber has a pro-reproductive freedom majority.
- The regular legislative session begins on the first Monday in January. The session is limited to 120 legislative days every biennium (2 year period) and is confined to the first five months of any year. If the legislature needs to meet outside of this time, it can be called into a “special session” by the governor.
 - The first year of the biennium is the budget year (2021), where the legislature works to pass
 - The second year of the biennium is the bonding year (2022)
- Members of the legislature should represent their districts and work with constituents to help them meet their needs

BEYOND ROE

MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE OVERVIEW (CONT..)

What does the legislature do?

- State governments have the powers that are not specifically delegated to the federal government. Some of these responsibilities are:
 - Approving the state budget
 - Initiate tax legislation
 - Educate their citizens
 - Provide for their citizens' health and welfare
 - Provide law and order for citizens
 - Conduct elections and oversee voting
 - Oversee the effectiveness of existing programs
- Increasingly, federal courts have chosen to defer to states on issues regarding voting, reproductive freedoms, economic rights, and the right to carry firearms.
- Legislation at the state level generally moves more quickly than legislation at the federal level.
- Given the faster time frame to pass legislation as well as the role state legislation increasingly has on our individual rights, remaining up-to-date on legislation and advocacy opportunities is important.

2022 LOBBY DAY SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

Go around and each person says their name and where they live in the district.

WHY WE'RE HERE

1. Dispel the myth that abortion is a divisive issue and demonstrate the broad support for reproductive freedom that exists in our community and across Minnesota.

72% of Minnesotans support abortion rights and access in all parts of the state.

2. Share information about how Minnesotans actually feel about abortion.

When a person has decided to have an abortion, Minnesotans know how they want the experience to be...

93% think it should be up-to-date in medical advances and standards

80% think it should be without protestors (80%)

75% think it should be as soon as possible and without shame

74% think it should be in an environment that is supportive, respectful, and affordable

3. Share the protections for reproductive freedom we have in the Minnesota Constitution:

In 1995, The Minnesota Supreme Court found that the state Constitution "affords broader protection than the United States Constitution of a woman's fundamental right to reach a private decision on whether to obtain an abortion". **This means that the Minnesota Constitution protects our right to both have, and decide to have, an abortion,** without the government trying to sway us one way or another.

Put simply, our laws are in direct conflict with our values and our constitution.

OUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

We are here because, regardless of how any individual feels about abortion, we all agree that Minnesotans should be able to decide whether and when they become a parent – not the government.

2022 LOBBY DAY SCRIPT (CONT..)



OUR LEGISLATIVE AGENDA (CONT.)

The two bills we're specifically here to advocate for would address several ways access to abortion care in Minnesota is restricted:

1. Patients' Right to Know Act HF 522 / SF 963 (use SF 963 when talking to Senators and HF 522 when talking to Representatives.) This bill repeals the 24-hour waiting period and state mandated lecture doctors are required by law to give patients before they receive abortion care.

2. We also know that reproductive health, rights, and freedom is beyond access to abortion, and accordingly, we urge you to support bills that align with the values of Reproductive Justice.

The primary principles of Reproductive Justice are:

- The right to have a child
- The right to not have a child
- The right to parent children in safe and healthy environments
- Sexual autonomy and gender freedom for every human being

[UnRestrict Minnesota's Reproductive Justice Agenda.](#)

THE ASKS

Pro-Reproductive Freedom Legislator:

- Will you sign on as a co-author of the Patients' Right to Know Act, SF 963 (or HF 522)?
- Will you join the Reproductive Freedom Caucus?

If the legislator has signed onto SF 963 or HF 522 and is a member of the Reproductive Freedom Caucus:

- Acknowledge that they are a co-author and member of Reproductive Freedom Caucus and thank them for being a reproductive freedom champion!

Anti-Reproductive Freedom Legislator:

- Can you acknowledge that Minnesotans should be able to decide whether and when they become a parent in accordance with their beliefs and circumstances?
- Can you acknowledge that healthcare providers should have the right to provide medically-accurate, evidence-based information to their patients without interference from lawmakers?

LOBBY DAY EMAIL TEMPLATE

Use this guide when writing your Reproductive Freedom Lobby Day emails. If you are not meeting with your legislators because they're busy or refused your meeting, it's still important that they hear from their constituents.

- Introduce yourself, let them know where you live
- Let them know [why you're reaching out](#).
 - [Messaging do's and don'ts](#)
 - [Patients Right to Know Act](#)
- Give a short, [personal anecdote](#) if you have one.
- Make the ask
 - **IF PRO-REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM:** *Since we know you're a supporter of reproductive freedom, can we count on you to vote in support of the Patients' Right to Know Act, which grants healthcare providers the right to provide medically-accurate, evidence-based information to their patients without interference from lawmakers?*
 - **IF ANTI-ABORTION:** *Are you open to the idea that Minnesotans should be able to decide whether and when they become a parent, and that healthcare providers should have the right to provide medically-accurate, evidence-based information to their patients without interference from lawmakers?*
- Thank them

TALKING POINTS:

Patients' Right to Know Act HF 522/SF 963

- Abortion care is the only healthcare that politicians have singled out in law for biased treatment
- The Patients' Right to Know Act gives healthcare providers the right to provide medically accurate, evidence-based information to their patients without worrying about interference from lawmakers
- Current law requires doctors read a script that includes medically irrelevant and inaccurate information about abortion (like suggesting a false link between abortion and breast cancer) before the patient can receive care
 - This act will repeal laws such as this as well as prohibit future laws that would require this information to be read before care is given
- Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures that exists
 - Abortion is 14 times safer than giving birth. It is also safer than having a colonoscopy or having a tooth removed (both of which are incredibly safe)
- Abortion regulation disregards evidence-based science and recommendations from local medical boards
- Every person should have the ability to decide if, when, and how to become a parent
- Every person should have gender and bodily autonomy
- Everyone should have the freedom to access health care without politically motivated and medically unnecessary restrictions
- 75% of Minnesotans agree that when a person has decided to have an abortion, it should be safe, legal, and free from punishment or judgement

MESSAGING DO'S AND DON'TS

1. Reframe the debate around abortion: Rather than debate the reasons Minnesotans decide to have an abortion, and, regardless of how any individual feels about abortion, I agree that Minnesotans should be able to decide whether and when they become a parent — not the government.

2. Move past the decision: When we talk about abortion, we're moving past the decision point and starting the conversation after a person has decided to have an abortion. Each Minnesotan is capable of making their own decisions, and we must think about what happens after the decision has been made. "When a person has decided to have an abortion..."

3. Don't say what things "are not" or "don't do": By using anti-abortion extremists language, we reinforce their narrative. It's not possible to negate a frame ("I am not a crook" or "Don't think of an elephant"). Saying what you are not, or what something is not, only reinforces the brain's connection between those things. Example:

- ~~Abortion isn't dangerous.~~
- Abortion is safe.

4. Use gender inclusive language: Not all people who have abortions identify as women.

Gender inclusive language examples:

- Minnesotans who access abortion care
- People who are pregnant
- Parent(s)
- Pregnant Minnesotans
- Patients
- Women and people with uteruses

5. Avoid stigmatizing abortion: A common way this has been done in the past is by saying abortion should be "safe, legal, and rare". This messaging reinforces the narrative that abortions are bad, and therefore should be rare. There are no good or bad abortions, just abortions that Minnesotans decide to have.

6. Avoid getting into the reasons why people decide to have abortions: There are a myriad of reasons why pregnant Minnesotans may decide to have an abortion. No matter what the reason, we respect the decisions of other Minnesotans. The government should not be able to control our ability to become, or not become, parents for any reason.

INSTEAD OF...	SAY THIS...	WHY?
Pro-Choice or Pro-Life	Pro-Reproductive Freedom; anti-abortion, abortion opponents	People often identify as both pro-choice and pro-life, so the labels are not useful in messaging.
Women's healthcare or reproductive choice	Abortion, Reproductive Freedom	Audiences often feel euphemisms are evasive and stigmatizing.
Exclusively saying "women or woman"	Person, Patient, Minnesotans who need abortion, Person who needs an abortion	It is important to use gender neutral language; women are not the only people who get abortions.
Parent or mother	Person, Patient, Minnesotans who need abortion, Person who needs an abortion	Continues to remind audiences of people's autonomy and status separate from their pregnancy.
Person's choice	Personal decision	A "decision" is more serious than "choice," which can be perceived as less thoughtful and impulsive.
Abortion should be safe, legal, and rare.	Legal abortion must be available and affordable.	Saying "rare" increases stigma and can create support for restrictions.
No one wants to have an abortion/ This is a devastating decision.	We don't know every person's circumstances. This is a deeply personal decision.	Convey seriousness without stigma or assuming anything about the feelings of the person.
Deserves	Ability; should be able to; need	"Deserves" is a term that can result in pushback from audiences.
Listing details or reasons why a person is having an abortion (e.g. rape, incest, etc).	Mention decision-making process: "thinking through a decision"; "talking it over with loved ones." Remind audiences that "they have made their decision".	Listing reasons or exceptions increases judgment and can lead to support for restrictions.
Fair, unfair, fairness.	We should not treat people differently just because they are poor; live in a certain zip code; etc.	"Fair, unfair, fairness" are terms that can result in pushback from audiences
We can't go back to pre-Roe days with women dying from back alley abortions	We all want to be able to live a safe and healthy life and be free to design our own path.	So much has changed since 1973, including internet access to medication abortion. Threats of people dying are less believable and not helpful. Communicate positive values to build support for abortion that is safe, affordable, and available.

Table from www.COMSProject.org

2022 REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LOBBY DAY

2021-2022 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Reproductive Justice is a contemporary framework and movement, created and led by Black women, that analyzes how the ability of any person to determine their own reproductive destiny is linked directly to the conditions in their community—and these conditions are not just a matter of individual choice and access.

The primary principles are:

- The right to have a child
- The right to not have a child
- The right to parent children in safe and healthy environments
- Sexual autonomy and gender freedom for every human being

Bill Name / Topic	Chief Author / Bill Number	Bill Description	Status
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The Right to Have a Child

<u>Dignity in Pregnancy and Childbirth Act</u>	Rep. Richardson HF 660 Sen. Torres Ray SF 877	Black mothers die at rates 4x that of white mothers. This bill would implement anti-racism training and implicit bias continuing education requirement; maternal death studies expansion to include maternal morbidity	Signed into law
<u>365 day post-partum MA expansion</u>	Rep. Morrison HF 52 Sen. Wiklund SF 735	Currently, MA only covers pregnant people 2 weeks postpartum. This bill would extend medical assistance postpartum coverage to one-year. With almost 20% of postpartum deaths occurring 6 weeks to one year after birth, this bill would extend life saving healthcare to low-income parents in Minnesota.	Signed into law
<u>Repealing Mandated Reporting for Prenatal Care Providers</u>	Rep. Morrison HF 1026 Sen. Benson SF 1182	Current law requires prenatal care providers to report pregnant Minnesotans for substance use. Mandatory reporting leads to distrust and avoidance of care. We know prenatal care brings down substance abuse issues; this bill amends's requirements and allows better access to drug treatment services.	Signed into law as amended

*** Final bill requires that if the patient discontinues care/does not respond to attempts to contact the provider remains required to report.*

2021-2022 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Bill Name / Topic	Chief Author / Bill Number	Bill Description	Status
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The Right to Have a Child

<u>Logan's Law</u>	Rep. Athena Hollins HF 1924 Sen. Bigham SF 360	Eliminates second parent adoption requirement for lesbian couples who have children. Parentage of a woman who provides donated ova clarified, and rights of spouse to parentage when assisted reproductive technology is used clarified. *note: this is a larger LGBTQIA bill that has Logan's Law in it, but is not a stand alone Logan's Law bill	
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The Right to Not Have a Child

<u>Patients' Right to Know Act</u>	Rep. Morrison HF 522 Sen. Port SF 963	Authorizing health care providers to provide patients with health information and services that are medically accurate, evidence-based, and appropriate for the patient; repealing informed consent requirements before abortions may be performed	
<u>Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act</u>	Rep. Morrison HF 529 Sen. McEwen SF 731	Establishes the fundamental right of Minnesotans to make individual decisions about reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion, and pregnancy.	
<u>Family Planning Special Projects</u>	Rep. Morrison HF 258 Sen. Marty SF 644	Increases funding for the Family Planning Special Projects (FPSP) grant program at the Minnesota Department of Health. FPSP programs provide pre-pregnancy and family planning services to low-income, high-risk individuals	
<u>Salary History Ban</u>	Rep. Her HF 403 Sen. Champion SF 171	Prohibits employers from inquiring about past pay. Currently in Minnesota, women overall make 83 cents for every dollar made by men. Among women in Minnesota earn 55 cents to every dollar a white man makes, Native American/Indigenous women earn 54 cents, and Somali women earn 44 cents. Salary history bans work to prevent the perpetuation of past pay discrimination by requiring employers to use other factors market comparisons, to determine pay.	Passed in the House but not the Senate

2021-2022 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Bill Name / Topic	Chief Author / Bill Number	Bill Description	Status
The Right to Parent Children in Safe and Healthy Environments			
<u>Women's Economic Security Act: Pumping Provision Clarification</u>	Rep. Koegel HF 357	Expands applicability of pregnancy accommodations to apply to businesses with 1 or more employees.	Signed into law
	Sen. Coleman SF 1180		
<u>Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act</u>	Rep. Agbaje HF 1151	The Minnesota African American Family Preservation Act will protect the best interests of African American children; promote the stability and security of African American children and families by establishing minimum standards to prevent arbitrary and unnecessary removal of African American children from their families; and improve permanency outcomes, including family reunification, for African American children.	
	Sen. Champion SF 843		
<u>Paid Family Medical Leave</u>	Rep. Richardson HF 1200	A state-administered paid leave insurance program, where everyone contributes and everyone benefits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide up to 12 weeks of partial wage replacement for medical leave (including pregnancy). • Provide up to 12 weeks partial wage replacement for family leave 	Ongoing hearings in the House
	Sen. Kent SF 1205		
<u>MinnesotaCare Expansion</u>	Rep. Schultz HF 11/HF4095	Opens the state-run health care program, MinnesotaCare to purchase by people currently buying individual or small group insurance. Would expand access to affordable, quality health coverage including for immigrant communities currently without care. (Updated in '22 to include temporary assistance in private market for 2 years until the buy-in can be implemented. HF11 is moving in the House. In the Senate only SF3907 contains these updates.)	Ongoing hearings in the House
	Sen. Wiklund SF 1029/SF3907		

2021-2022 REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Bill Name / Topic	Chief Author / Bill Number	Bill Description	Status
The Right to Bodily Autonomy and Gender Freedom			
<u>Menstrual Equity</u>	Rep. Feist HF 2750	Requires schools to make disposable menstrual products freely available in school restrooms.	Ongoing hearings in the House and Senate
	Sen. Cwudzinski SF 3052		
<u>Conversion Therapy Ban</u>	Rep. Athena Hollins HF 2156	Prohibits the practice of conversion therapy (a practice that seeks to change an individual's sexual orientation or gender identity) by health care professionals on minors and vulnerable adults.	
	Sen. Dibble SF 1871		
<u>Missing and Murdered African American Women</u>	Rep. Richardson HF 952/HF2849	Creates Task Force on Missing and Murdered African American Women	
	Sen. Kunesch SF 1118/SF3370	**Language passed the House; included in the Public Safety Omnibus Bill.	
<u>Comprehensive Sex and Consent Education</u>	Rep. Jordan HF 358	Provides Minnesota students a sexual health education that is medically accurate, shame-free, culturally responsive, age-appropriate, LGBTQ inclusive, focused on consent, and healthy v.s. unhealthy relationships	
	Sen. Kunesch SF 632		

