

LOBBY DAY SCRIPT

INTRODUCTION

- Go around the room, with each person saying their name and where they live in the district.
- **Start with your values and why you care about reproductive freedom.** Examples:
 - I care about reproductive freedom because I think everyone should have the right to choose to parent or not to parent.
 - I'm here today because I value everyone's right to privacy and bodily autonomy, and access to abortion care is integral to those rights.
 - I'm a nurse and I want my patients to have access to the full spectrum of reproductive healthcare, including abortion care.
 - I'm a parent and want my children to grow up in a state where they can access reproductive healthcare. Watching other states ban access makes me worried about their future.
 - 1 in 4 people of reproductive age who are able to become pregnant will access abortion care in their lives, including myself/a loved one. We need to keep this care safe, affordable, and accessible to all who need it.

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.
 - 70% of Minnesotans want people in all communities to have access to safe, legal, and affordable abortion care.
2. Share information about how Minnesotans actually feel about abortion. Minnesotans have a straightforward view of abortion and want decisions about abortion left in the hands of individuals.
 - 71% of Minnesotans want the decision left to the individual and their doctor rather than regulated by law;
 - 75% want people to make their own decisions on abortion without the government interfering;
 - 80% agree they don't want one group's religious beliefs swaying rights for everyone; and
 - 67% agree there shouldn't be so much shame and stigma surrounding abortion.
3. Share the mandate to protect and expand reproductive freedom in Minnesota.
 - Despite protections for abortion in our state constitution and the overwhelming support of Minnesotans, anti-abortion politicians have managed to quietly chip away at patients' ability to get an abortion when they need it.
 - With the federal repeal of Roe v. Wade, we urgently need to clean house and repeal the harmful laws that prevent Minnesotans from actually accessing abortion care.
 - Minnesotans elected a pro-reproductive freedom majority--it's time to repeal barriers to abortion care, many of which were deemed unconstitutional in court. The PRO Act was a good start, and there's still work to do.

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. As reproductive freedom is attacked across the country, Minnesota also has a responsibility to ensure our health, privacy, and dignity is protected when seeking and providing abortion care.

1. **Reproductive Freedom Codification Act** - HF 91 (Liebling) / SF 70 (Maye Quade)

The Reproductive Freedom Codification Act (RFCA) repeals restrictions on abortion care. The RFCA ensures that Minnesota is a safe haven for reproductive healthcare by removing all restrictions on abortion in the state, many of which were deemed unconstitutional by the courts.

2. **The Positive Pregnancies Support Act** - HF 289 (Olson) / SF 336 (Kunesh)

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act seeks to provide support for pregnant people and families regardless of their healthcare decisions. Under current state law, the Positive Alternatives to Abortion Act—a \$3 million program—directs most of its budget to Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) which outnumber legitimate abortion clinics in Minnesota 11 to 1 and spread dangerous misinformation. The Positive Pregnancies Support Act redirects state funding from anti-abortion organizations to support pregnant individuals regardless of their decisions, expands information, services, and resources to pregnant people, and lifts the gag rule that prevents state funding from going to organizations with connections to abortion providers.

3. **The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act** - HF 366 (Agbaje) / SF 165 (Morrison)

The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act (RFDA) protects Minnesota healthcare providers, citizens, and patients from legal attacks and criminal penalties imposed by anti-abortion extremists in other states. With the recent overturn of Roe v. Wade, states across the country are moving to criminalize abortion. The RFDA ensures that these extremist laws cannot hijack our court system.

THE ASKS

Pro-Reproductive Freedom Legislator:

- **Will you sign on as a co-author of the Reproductive Freedom Codification Act**, HF 91 (Liebling) / SF 70 (Maye Quade), **the Positive Pregnancies Support Act**, HF 289 (Olson) / SF 336 (Kunesh), and **the Reproductive Freedom Defense Act**. HF 366 (Agbaje) / SF 165 (Morrison)?
- **Will you join the Reproductive Freedom Caucus?**
- If the legislator has signed on to UnRestrict's priority bills 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:

- Follow the above outline. During introductions, aim to find a point of connection (i.e. you attended the same high school).
- Thank them for the time.
- Ask them if they're open to the idea that Minnesotans should be able to decide whether and when they become a parent in accordance with their beliefs and circumstances?
- Ask them if they can acknowledge that healthcare providers should have the right to provide medically-accurate, evidence-based information to their patients without interference from lawmakers.
- Be prepared to pivot back to your priorities and questions if they try to pivot the conversation in an unhelpful direction.

2023 UNRESTRICT MINNESOTA

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

UNRESTRICT MINNESOTA

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court eliminating the federal right to an abortion and overturning Roe v. Wade in its decision Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, reproductive freedom in the United States is under assault. But in Minnesota, thanks to our historic pro-reproductive majority in the Minnesota legislature, we can make sure that reproductive freedom is protected and expanded by passing our legislative agenda, as outlined below.

PROTECT ABORTION RIGHTS AND EXPAND ACCESS

THE PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE OPTIONS ACT (PRO ACT) (HF 1/SF 1)

Chief Authors: Sen. Jen McEwan, Rep. Carlie Kotyza-Witthuhn

Description: Establishes the fundamental right of Minnesotans to make individual decisions about reproductive health care, including contraception, abortion, and pregnancy. This was signed into law on February 1, 2023.



THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CODIFICATION ACT (HF 91/SF 70)

Chief Authors: Rep. Tina Liebling, Sen. Erin Maye Quade

Description: Repeals Minnesota's abortion restriction laws, including the two-parent notification law for minors, the mandatory 24-hour delay on people seeking abortion, the requirement that providers recite a state-mandated script of misinformation about abortion to patients, the ban on advance practice non-physician clinicians providing abortion, and more.

THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DEFENSE ACT (HF 366/SF 165)

Chief Authors: Rep. Esther Agbaje, Sen. Kelly Morrison, Sen. Lindsey Port

Description: Would enact strong protections for anyone in Minnesota seeking abortion care, as well as the providers who care for them — safeguarding all from prosecution under laws aimed at imposing other states' restrictions on us.

POSITIVE PREGNANCIES SUPPORT ACT (HF 289 / SF 336)

Chief Authors: Rep. Liz Olson, Sen. Mary Kunesch

Description: Bans state grant-recipient agencies from encouraging clients toward one pregnancy outcome over another, requires agencies to provide pregnant people with medically accurate information and services about abortion and pregnancy, and requires agencies to provide clients with resources and assistance applying for public health programs, domestic violence services and mental health counseling, in addition to other services already required.



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REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CODIFICATION ACT: REPEAL RESTRICTIONS ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

HF 91 (Liebling) / SF 70 (Maye Quade)

Background

The Reproductive Freedom Codification Act (RFCA) will ensure that Minnesota is a safe haven for reproductive healthcare by removing all restrictions on abortion in the state.

The RFCA:

- Ends state-mandated counseling and 24-hour waiting period, practices opposed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists.
- Allows trained and licensed providers, including registered nurses, to perform abortions, removing artificial limitations on the pool of providers.
- Removes extensive barriers to care for young people which are opposed by the American Academy of Pediatrics and cause unnecessary trauma for patients.
- Stops forcing burial or cremation on abortion patients.
- Protects the privacy of abortion patients by removing provisions that required providers to report personal details about patients and imposed felonies for non-compliance.

WHY WE NEED THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CODIFICATION ACT

Since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, people across the country are looking to Minnesota for leadership and care. The RFCA is critical to meeting the needs of patients and providers and responding to the desires of Minnesotans. Polling shows that 68% of Minnesotans support access to abortion and the repeal of laws that restrict it (PerryUndem in December 2022).

WHAT WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO

In 2023, state lawmakers passed the PRO Act enshrining abortion in our state's constitution. This was an important first step—and it is time to repeal the harmful laws that still restrict access to abortion care. Minnesotans elected a pro-reproductive freedom majority to the Legislature, and they're relying on lawmakers to repeal reproductive healthcare restrictions, many of which were deemed unconstitutional, in state law. Passing the RFCA is essential to protecting and fulfilling the promise of reproductive freedom in Minnesota.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM CODIFICATION ACT

HF 91 (Liebling) / SF 70 (Maye Quade)

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

- The RFCA will once and for all ensure Minnesota is a safe haven for reproductive healthcare by removing any remaining abortion restrictions sitting on our books.
- The bill will end state mandated counseling and the 24-waiting period, two practices opposed by the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecologists; it will stop artificially limiting the pool of abortion providers by allowing trained licensed providers including registered nurses to perform abortions.
- It will stop unnecessarily traumatizing abortion patients by imposing age-based restrictions that subject young people to extensive barriers to care that are opposed by the American Academy of Pediatrics; it will also stop forcing burial or cremation on abortion patients.
- Finally, it will protect the privacy of abortion patients. Minnesota law currently includes provisions that were used to require abortion providers to collect and report to the state an exhaustive and invasive list of personal details about abortion patients. Providers who do not report this information could be charged with a felony.

WHY DO WE CHAMPION THIS BILL?

Since the US Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and anti-abortion politicians in other states have been racing to pass the most extreme restrictions on abortion rights and access, people from across the nation are looking to Minnesota for leadership and care. Passing the RFCA is a critical step in ensuring Minnesota steps up at this moment to meet the needs of patients and providers.

This is simply what Minnesotans want. Polling shows that the majority of them support access to abortion and repealing laws that restrict care.

WHAT DO WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO?

We already passed the PRO Act, enshrining abortion in our state's constitution, but it's not enough if we don't repeal the harmful laws that still restrict access.

Minnesotans elected a pro-reproductive freedom majority to the legislature. They're relying on you to lead, and to uphold the promises you were elected to keep. Passing the RFCA is integral to keeping those promises.

If you would like more information regarding the Bill, please contact UnRestrict Minnesota.

Email: info@unrestrictmn.org

THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DEFENSE ACT: PROTECTING HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND PATIENTS

HF 366 (Agbaje) / SF 165 (Morrison)

Background

The Reproductive Freedom Defense Act (RFDA) protects Minnesota healthcare providers, citizens, and patients from legal attacks and criminal penalties imposed by anti-abortion extremists in other states. With the recent overturn of *Roe v. Wade*, states across the country are moving to criminalize abortion. The RFDA ensures that these extremist laws cannot hijack our court system.

The RFDA:

- Excludes out-of-state subpoenas and court orders for records related to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive healthcare, ensuring disclosure laws cannot be weaponized for other state's prosecution of healthcare protected under Minnesota law.
- Protects providers who have lost their license in other states due to abortion restrictions from having their licenses revoked in Minnesota.
- Prevents Minnesota law enforcement and courts from complying with extradition orders and subpoenas from other states related to reproductive healthcare charges.
- Allows anyone sued in another state under these laws to counter-sue in Minnesota to recover any costs affiliated with that case, including any damages you were ordered to pay.
- Ensures that Minnesota courts will not enforce out-of-state judgements for these types of lawsuits.

WHY WE NEED THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DEFENSE ACT

As of January 2023, 24 states have banned or are likely to ban abortion. Anti-abortion lawmakers in growing numbers of states are imposing restrictions on those who live in states that protect reproductive rights.

It is critical that Minnesota joins other progressive states like California, Connecticut, and Massachusetts in protecting patients and providers in our state from being criminalized by extremists in other states.

WHAT WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO

We need legislators to champion this bill with their colleagues. Misinformation and scaremongering about the bill's application has been rife and it is crucial that legislative allies clearly communicate that the protections of this bill apply only to laws that criminalize or seek to prosecute abortion and reproductive healthcare.

THE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM DEFENSE ACT

HF 366 (Agbaje) / SF 165 (Morrison)

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

- The RFDA protects Minnesota healthcare providers, citizens, and patients from around the country, against legal attacks and criminal penalties imposed by anti-abortion extremists in other states.
- In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning Roe v. Wade, states across the country moved to criminalize abortion, not only in their own states, but across state lines. The RFDA ensures they cannot hijack our court system with their extremist laws.
- The bill specifies that the law governing the release of health records excludes out-of-state subpoenas and court orders for records related to abortion, contraception, and other reproductive healthcare, ensuring disclosure laws cannot be weaponized for other state's prosecution of healthcare protected under Minnesota law; it ensures that providers who have lost their license in other states due to abortion restrictions will not have their licenses revoked in MN; it ensures that MN law enforcement and courts will not comply with extradition orders and subpoenas from other states related to reproductive healthcare related charges; it allows anyone sued in another state under one of these laws to counter-sue in Minnesota to recover any costs affiliated with that case, including any damages you were ordered to pay and ensures that Minnesota courts will not enforce out of state judgements for these types of lawsuits.

WHY DO WE CHAMPION THIS BILL?

As of January 2023, [24 states have banned abortion or are likely to do so](#). Anti-abortion lawmakers in a growing number of states have introduced legislation that reaches beyond their own borders and imposing restrictions on those who live in states, like ours, that respect pregnant people's needs and protect their rights under the law.

In this unprecedented time of the criminalization of reproductive healthcare, it's critical that Minnesota join other progressive states like California, Connecticut, and Massachusetts in protecting patients and providers in our state from being criminalized by extremists in other states.

WHAT DO WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO?

We need legislators to champion this bill with their colleagues. Opposition to this bill has been rife with misinformation and scaremongering about how it will be applied and it's critical that our allies in congress are clear that the protections of this bill apply only to laws that criminalize or seek to prosecute abortion and reproductive healthcare.

If you would like more information regarding the Bill,
please contact UnRestrict Minnesota.

Email: info@unrestrictmn.org

THE POSITIVE PREGNANCIES SUPPORT ACT

HF 289 (Olson) / SF 336 (Kunesh)

Background

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act seeks to provide support for pregnant people and families regardless of their healthcare decisions. Under current state law, the Positive Alternatives to Abortion Act—a \$3 million program—directs most of its budget to Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) which outnumber legitimate abortion clinics in Minnesota 11 to 1 and spread dangerous misinformation.

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act:

- Reforms the existing Positive Alternatives to Abortion Act: The bill will redirect the funding from anti-abortion organizations to support pregnant individuals, regardless of their decisions.
- Expands information, services, and resources: The bill will expand the pregnancy support programs provided by the state, ensuring that all services offered to pregnant individuals in Minnesota are medically accurate and delivered by professionals.
- Lifts the gag rule: The bill will lift the current rule that prevents state funding from going to organizations with connections to abortion providers, eliminate the language that requires grantees to attempt to influence the decisions of pregnant individuals seeking counsel, and target the unregulated surveillance of patients that occurs at CPCs.

WHY WE NEED THE POSITIVE PREGNANCIES SUPPORT ACT

The Positive Pregnancies Support Act aligns with what Minnesotans want, which is equitable access to a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare. The bill also ensures that the law complies with the Minnesota Supreme Court case *Doe v. Gomez*, which states that the state cannot favor one pregnancy outcome over another.

WHAT WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO

Advancing the Positive Pregnancies Support Act is essential to ensuring that Minnesota is a safe haven for reproductive healthcare. CPCs pose a threat to the safety and privacy of individuals seeking reproductive healthcare, including abortion patients. We urge legislators to support the Positive Pregnancies Support Act this session.

THE POSITIVE PREGNANCIES SUPPORT ACT

Introduced in the Senate by Senator Mary Kunesh and in the House by Liz Olson

WHAT DOES THIS BILL DO?

- The Positive Pregnancies Support Act will reform the existing Positive Alternatives to Abortion Act, which funnels money into anti-abortion organizations–Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs.) The Positive Pregnancies Support Act ensures that those funds will be used instead to **support pregnant people, no matter what their decisions are.**
- The Positive Pregnancies Support Act would expand the information, services, and resources available to pregnant people through state-funded pregnancy support programs. It would require all state-funded services offered to pregnant people in Minnesota to be **medically accurate and delivered by an appropriate professional.**
- Additionally, it would lift a gag rule preventing state funding from going to organizations that have connections to abortion providers and **eliminate language requiring grantees to attempt to influence the decisions of the pregnant people** who come to them seeking counsel and care. It would also **target the unregulated surveillance** of patients that occurs at CPCs.

WHY DO WE CHAMPION THIS BILL?

Under the current Positive Alternatives to Abortion act, so-called Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) receive most of the \$3 million dollar budget; these clinics outnumber legitimate abortion clinics in the state of MN 11 to 1. They peddle dangerous misinformation, including that abortion is linked to breast cancer and spreading pseudoscience about abortion pill reversal which every major medical organization opposes. Not only does the Positive Pregnancies Support Act ensure that funding is used in accordance with what Minnesotans actually want – equitable access to a full spectrum of reproductive healthcare – it ensures the law abides by Minnesota Supreme Court case, which designates that the state cannot favor one pregnancy outcome to another.

WHAT WE WANT LEGISLATORS TO DO

Advancing the Positive Pregnancies Act and reforming current legislation is a critical step to ensuring Minnesota is a safe haven for reproductive healthcare. Crisis Pregnancy Centers pose a significant threat to the safety and privacy of not only abortion patients, but patients seeking all kinds of reproductive healthcare.

If you would like more information regarding the Bill, please contact UnRestrict Minnesota.

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