

## Reproductive Health Equity Fund (SF1890/HF1278)

## Overview

Since Roe v. Wade was overturned in 2022, <u>78 independent abortion providers</u> and at least <u>61 Planned Parenthood clinics</u> have had to stop providing abortion care or close their clinic doors all-together. Currently, right here in Minnesota, Robbinsdale Clinic, P.A. is no longer seeing patients and will be closing permanently after initially creating a <u>GoFundMe</u> campaign to continue to keep their doors open as long as possible.

## **Since 2023**

- 1 clinic is closing
- 1 clinic had to close temporarily due to restructuring
- 1 clinic is at great risk of closing in the future
- 3 independent abortion providers are left in MN, a "refuge" state for abortion care

## Proposal

Therefore, we are asking the Governor and legislators of Minnesota to invest in the state's abortion care system by establishing funding for the <u>Reproductive Health Equity Fund</u>. This funding will ensure that Minnesota will have a more sustainable abortion care ecosystem and allow pregnant people to more freely make decisions about their own reproductive health care.

- Since 1978, clinics that provide abortion care have not had the same access to state funding as other sexual and reproductive health clinics, purely because of political reasons. This has resulted in millions of dollars of lost funding for patients and providers.
- While the 2023 Medicaid reimbursement rate increase was a good first step, data shows that it is simply not enough. The approximately \$7 increase per patient is not nearly enough to sustain our clinics long-term. It is clear that clinics need direct funding and a long-term investment now. The RHEF would be a stopgap while we continue our work to increase the Medicaid reimbursement rates.
- The Reproductive Health Equity Fund (RHEF) will allocate \$30 million in funding directly to Minnesota abortion providers to support a sustainable abortion provider ecosystem.

Historically, in Minnesota, abortion providers have missed out on millions of state dollars that have been awarded specifically for family planning funding—but purposefully barred abortion care funding—for political reasons. **Now is the time to begin to reverse the effects of those decisions.** 

