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2/26/2025

Chair Scott and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Gender Justice is a legal and policy advocacy organization dedicated to advancing gender equity through the law. We write in opposition to House File 25.

We believe that every pregnant person deserves access to information, care, and resources that meet their needs without bias or interference. That includes people accessing information and care early in pregnancy or seeking resources during pregnancy or for a young baby.

House File 25 is an expansion of the former “Positive Alternatives to Abortion” program that Minnesota discontinued in 2023. Like that program, in order to qualify for this funding organizations would be required to actively discourage people from ending a pregnancy, and withhold information about care options, even when a patient has already decided to have an abortion. These grants would be funded by taking \$4 Million dollars from the base budget of the Minnesota Department of Health. The bill as introduced was funded by a reduction to grants that fund family planning and sexual health services around the state. Although that program is no longer directly targeted, we are equally concerned that the reduction to the Minnesota Department of Health operating budget would inevitably directly harm this or other critical public health priorities.

In 2021, Gender Justice co-released “Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Center Industry in Nine States.” Here are a few key findings:

- Over 63% of the CPCs in Minnesota made false and biased claims about abortion
- Many Minnesota CPCs promote “abortion pill reversal” — an untested medical procedure that ACOG called “unethical” and “not based in science.”
- Under the previous state program, 57% of state-funded CPCs provided no prenatal care referrals and 62% provided no wellness care referrals.

There are many excellent organizations throughout Minnesota that offer a full range of services, resources, and reliable information to pregnant people without judgment or agenda. We fully support adding resources to increase access to low cost and free services such as medically accurate ultrasounds, counseling, diapers and other baby supplies, and post-natal supports. However the state should by no means shift funding from important, medically accurate, preventive care to organizations that use deception and coercion to prevent people from



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accessing the information and care they want, and that force pregnant people to receive ideological and biased information in order to access basic supports.

This bill perpetuates the myth that pregnant people cannot be trusted to make decisions about their own bodies and families, and that trained and licensed care providers cannot be trusted to provide appropriate and comprehensive counseling and care. Minnesotans trust pregnant people and their care providers. They want increased access to affordable healthcare, and they also want that care to be unbiased and medically accurate. Please oppose HF 25.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter "n".

Megan Peterson  
Executive Director, Gender Justice