

CTA Name: Reproductive Freedom Legislation

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Resources:

<https://unrestrictmn.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/2024-Lobby-Day-legislative-agenda-one-pager-1.pdf>

Description of the issue: (include links to relevant articles/resources)

During the 2023 legislative session, significant legislation was passed to ensure the right to reproductive freedom in Minnesota - “codifying” the right to an abortion, protecting doctors and out-of-state abortion patients from legal trouble, protecting patients who come to Minnesota for gender-affirming care, removing unconstitutional abortion barriers from the books, etc.

The work is not over. Indivisible Twin Cities follows closely the work of Unrestrict Minnesota, a coalition of groups focused on reproductive freedom, which provides leadership to those of us who are concerned about full gender and reproductive freedom.

There are 4 categories of the legislative agenda:

- 1) Fortify Protections for Gender and Reproductive Care (ERA)
[SF37/HF173](#)

The current version of the ERA bill reads:

*An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, a section shall be added to article I, to read:
Sec. 18. Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin.*

- 2) Remove Roadblocks to Affordable and Accessible Abortion Care
 - a) Mandate Insurance Coverage for Abortion
[SF3967](#) and [HF4053](#)

- b) Funding for abortion clinics
- 3) Promote Healthy Families and Advance Reproductive Justice
 - a) Ban on pelvic and breast exams on unconscious patients
 - b) Uniform parentage act
 - c) Minnesota building families act
 - d) Insurance coverage for vasectomies and OTC contraceptives
 - e) Insurance coverage for gender affirming care
 - f) Statewide health education standards
 - g) Nonprofit grant funding to support LGBTQ people relocating
 - h) Certified midwife licensing
 - i) African American Preservation Act

Call to Action: (what action are we taking)

Basically, we are contacting our state senators and representatives and telling them that we support full reproductive freedom, including a MN Equal Rights Amendment, and we want them to support it too.

Your reps may already be in support of this legislative agenda, but even if they are, the point of contacting them now is so that they know that YOU support it. We know that sometimes elected officials don't hear from us, especially if we agree with them or know they stand on the "right" side of a given issue. But this is not reason a to not contact them.

If your reps are authors of any of the bills listed here, you can add a thank you to your message.

Find your rep here: (use if applicable)

<https://www.gis.lcc.mn.gov/iMaps/districts/>

Contact Info:

We will be contacting our state senator and state house rep.

Sample Script (voice or email):

Dear Senator [name] and Representative [name]:

I am a constituent and a member of Indivisible Twin Cities (optional). I am contacting you today to let you know that I am supportive of the bills that have been introduced this session to further protect our rights to full reproductive freedom.

I was supportive of the bills passed last session to “codify” the right to abortion, to protect doctors and patients from out-of-state legal interference, and to remove unconstitutional barriers to reproductive healthcare that were on the books in Minnesota.

But the work is not done.

First and foremost, we need to pass a Minnesota Equal Rights Amendment in the legislature (SF37/HF173), and then put the question to the voters. It is past time for this to be done, and if it's not going to happen federally, then we need to make sure it happens in Minnesota. I hope you support passage of the ERA so that every single Minnesotan has the same rights under the law.

Secondly, we need to remove roadblocks to abortion and make it more affordable and accessible. We should mandate that insurance companies cover abortion, just like they do other medical procedures (SF3967 and HF4053). We need to provide funding for abortion clinics so we can build a sustainable abortion provider ecosystem in Minnesota to not only address the needs of Minnesotans, but also the influx of patients we have seen as a result of the national attacks on abortion access.

Finally, there are several bills making their way through the legislature that promote healthy families and support reproductive justice, such as insurance coverage for gender affirming care, statewide health education standards, certified midwife licensing, and much more.

I will be tracking this package of bills as they work their way through the legislative process, and ask that you put your support and your votes fully behind reproductive justice.

But first, pass the ERA!

Thank you.