



League of Women Voters of Minnesota Records

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THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

April 10, 2000

The Honorable Jesse Ventura
Governor of Minnesota
130 Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Governor Ventura:

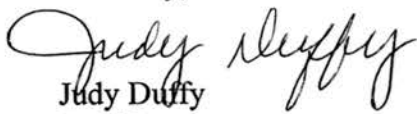
The League of Women Voters of Minnesota urges you to veto SF3387 the "Woman's Right to Know" bill calling for a 24-hour waiting period following abortion information presented to a potential patient.

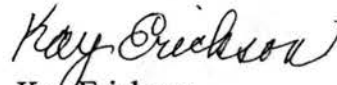
The Senate debate raised many of the doubtful provisions and implications of the bill that we hope you will consider. Basically the bill mandates the kind of information that must be provided and by whom and implies that all this must be documented by the health provider in detail to avoid possible litigation. The process is fraught with the potential for mischief on the part of anti-abortion activists who wish to complicate a woman's right to choose and to intimidate health providers who offer abortion procedures.

The League believes that a woman's constitutional right to privacy in this extremely important decision must not be abridged. This is a medical decision to be settled by a woman and her doctor. We know that women who are in this difficult situation will not be helped by this legislation.

You have affirmed a woman's right to choose repeatedly in your public pronouncements. Do not desert that position now. Veto this bill.

Sincerely,


Judy Duffy
President


Kay Erickson
Action chair



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

April 11, 2000

Dear Mr. Vice President,

It is our understanding that you have invited our Governor, Jesse Ventura to be your guest in Washington this week. I imagine that you have a full agenda of items to discuss with Governor Ventura. I would ask that you would add one more item. In Minnesota, a bill termed a "Women's Right to Know" has passed the legislature and now rests on the Governor's desk for his veto or signature. The bill in fact adds additional hurdles to a woman's right to choice and places restrictions on doctors who perform abortions. The Governor ran as a pro-choice candidate in 1998—one who favored keeping government out of people's private lives. At this time, he is waffling on this issue and no one seems sure where he will land on this bill. The American Medical Association among many others are very concerned that this bill will become law in Minnesota.

Knowing that you also have affirmed a woman's right to choice, I ask you to please speak with our governor about this and encourage his veto of this bill. Time is short here in Minnesota to blunt this effort and we would appreciate your help. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy Duffy
President
League of Women Voters of Minnesota

DATE: April 10, 2000

TO: Local League Presidents, Ten Minute Activists

FROM: Kay Erickson, Action Chair

RE: SF3387 A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW

SF3387 has been sent to the Governor for his signature or veto. Act now and ask the governor to veto this bill. If he does not veto the bill it will become law on Saturday of this week. The governor has proclaimed himself to be prochoice. Hold him to this promise in no uncertain terms. Call immediately and ask for his veto.

Office of the Governor 651/296-3391
1-800-657-3717



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 22, 2000

Governor Jesse Ventura
Office of the Governor
130 Capitol
St. Paul MN 55155

Dear Governor Ventura:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota I am writing to thank you for your consistent and outspoken support of a woman's right to choose and the protection of her privacy in exercising that right.

It is very disheartening to see support for the pro-choice position eroding more and more each year as a result of the threats and untiring pressure of the pro-life lobby. We appreciate your steadfast refusal to knuckle under.

Sincerely, *Thanks!*

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Judy Duffy'.

Judy Duffy
President



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA EDUCATION FUND

550 RICE STREET ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (651) 224-5445 FAX (651) 290-2145

March 22, 2000

The Honorable Sheila Kiscaden
Minnesota Senate
135 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Senator Kiscaden:

On behalf of the League of Women Voters I am writing to thank you for your good words on the floor of the Senate on March 21 during the debate on the Informed Consent amendment that was added to the Omnibus Spending Bill.

Your unfailing support for a woman's right to choose and to have her privacy protected is very heartening to those of us who are seeing this right challenged and support eroding in the face of the constant pressures of the opponents. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Duffy". Above the signature, the word "Thanks!" is written in a similar cursive style.

Judy Duffy
President

ACTION



THE LEAGUE
OF WOMEN VOTERS
MINNESOTA

550 Rice Street • Saint Paul, Minnesota 55103
Phone 612-224-5445 • Fax 612-292-9417
lwv@freenet.msp.mn.us
<http://freenet.msp.mn.us/ip/pol/lwvmn>

1919

A VOICE

FOR CITIZENS,

A FORCE

FOR CHANGE

1994

TO: Ten Minute Activists

FROM: League of Women Voters of Minnesota

DATE: 3/22/00

Please write Governor Ventura and thank him for his continuing outspoken support of a woman's right to choose. He may be the last hope to stop an informed consent amendment attached to the omnibus spending bill.

ACTION



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1994

TO: TEN MINUTE ACTIVISTS
FROM: LWVMN ACTION COMMITTEE
DATE: MARCH 9, 2000

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS – THE #1 PRIORITY OF THE ANTI-CHOICE LOBBYISTS IS THE “WOMAN’S RIGHT TO KNOW” BILL S.F.187.

CALL YOUR SENATOR NOW AND ASK HIM/HER TO OPPOSE SF187.
THE BILL IS JUST ANOTHER ATTEMPT TO RESTRICT A WOMAN’S
RIGHT TO CHOOSE A SAFE AND LEGAL ABORTION.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

THE SENATE AND GOVERNOR’S OFFICE ARE COMMITTED TO USING FUND
IN THE TANF RESERVE TO SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING. THE HOUSE
HAS NO PLAN TO USE TANF FUNDS OR OTHER MONEY FOR AFFORDABLE
HOUSING. CONTACT YOUR OWN REPRESENTATIVE AND HOUSE
LEADERSHIP. LET THEM KNOW THAT WELFARE REFORM WONT WORK
WITHOUT AFFORDABLE HOUSING. REMIND THEM THAT THE
AFFORDAABLE HOUSING SHORTAGE IS HURTING FAMILIES AND
BUSINESSES STATEWIDE. URGE THEM TO TAP THE TANF RESERVE FOR
HOUSING PRODUCTION AND PRESERVATION. LEADERS TO CALL ARE:
SPEAKER SVIGGUM 651-296-2273
MAJORITY LEADER PAWLENTY 651-296-4128
TAX COMMITTEE CHAIR RON ABRAMS 651-296-9934
WAYS AND MEANS CHAIR DAVE BISHOP 651-296-0573

MARCH 25, 1998

TO; LOCAL LEAGUES AND TEN MINUTE ACTIVISTS
FROM; CAROL FRISCH, ACTION CHAIR
RE; REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

LWVUS Positon: Protect the constitutional right of privacy of the individual to make reproductive choices.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OMNIBUS BILL: This bill contains essential health, social service and economic provisions for women, children and older adults. It has been hailed by many as a very good bill. HOWEVER last week the MN House passed several amendments with a prolife bias. In addition 78 representatives have signed a petition stating that they will vote against the Health and Human Services Omnibus bill it comes back from conference committee without these provisions.. The anti-choice amendments are:

- ⇒ A so-called partial birth abortion ban so broadly worded that it would ban even second trimester abortions without any exceptions to preserve the health of the woman or in cases of severe fetal anomaly.
- ⇒ A requirement that all physicians report pregnancy terminations to the state including the use of emergency contraceptives and RU486.
- ⇒ A directive to the State Health Dept. to implement the Christian Coalition's abstinence-only sex education program.
- ⇒ A directive forcing health care providers to open minors' medical records on birth control and abortion services to parents.
- ⇒ Denial of family planning funding to Planned Parenthood and a mandate that future family planning money go first to "natural" family planning programs.

CONTACT THE FOLLOWING ELECTED OFFICIALS IMMEDIATELY!

House Speaker Phil Carruthers 296-3709; House Minority Leader Steve Sviggum 296-2273; Governor Arne Carlson 296-3391; Senate Majority Leader Roger Moe 296-2577. Also call YOUR representative and senator. There is a great deal of waffling on this issue by members that have previously been considered pro-choice. Now is the time for them to take a resolute stand against the above provisions. No amount of pleading support for an otherwise good bill should be taken as sufficient excuse to include these provisions.

ACTION



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MARCH 25, 1998

1919
A VOICE
FOR CITIZENS,
A FORCE
FOR CHANGE

TO; LOCAL LEAGUES AND TEN MINUTE ACTIVISTS
FROM; CAROL FRISCH, ACTION CHAIR
RE; REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

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THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

MINNESOTA

550 RICE STREET, ST. PAUL, MN 55103 PHONE (612) 224-5445
April 27, 1993

Dear Senator:

The medical facilities access bill, legislation enhancing criminal penalties and allowing civil remedies for intentional obstruction of medical facilities, will be on the floor soon. On behalf of the nearly 2600 members and supporters of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota, we urge your support of SF 1046 and HF 1220.

As the harassment, intimidation, obstruction, and outright violent tactics of abortion foes such as Operation Rescue in other states make the news, it becomes urgent to defend a citizen's constitutional right of privacy to make reproductive choices here in our own state. This summer it may be increasingly difficult for our citizens to exercise their right to obtain legal and safe abortion services. The passage of SF 1046 and HF 1220 would provide a powerful tool to protect reproductive choices and would clearly establish the message that while exercise of the two constitutionally protected rights of free speech and privacy can co-exist, the intrusive exercise of either right will not be allowed to interfere with the other in Minnesota.

We further urge that this bill retain the civil penalties provision. Civil penalties are found included in criminal statutes in Minnesota. A civil cause of action would help remedy the fact that gross misdemeanors become misdemeanors as the result of plea bargaining. Misdemeanors are a level of penalty typically assigned to traffic law violators. Surely, a constitutional right deserves to be protected by penalties greater than those found in traffic courts. A civil cause of action would provide for such protection.

Lastly, we urge that this bill be kept clean. We oppose any amendments not directly addressing the issues of access, penalties or remedies. For example, an informed consent or waiting period provision would not be germane to this bill.

This is not just an issue of the protection of Minnesota citizens, it is also an issue of the freedom of Minnesota citizens to exercise the constitutionally protected right of reproductive choice. As the fury of the war over abortion threatens necessary and appropriate legislation once again, we acknowledge your formidable responsibility and thank you for your consideration. It is our position that SF 1046 and HF 1220 should pass with both criminal and civil penalties and without amendments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Kay Erickson'.

Kay Erickson
President

Testimony on SF 1046
Senate Judiciary Committee
April 14, 1993
presented by Susan Simmonds, lobbyist

My name is Susan Simmonds, and I am speaking on behalf of the nearly 2600 members of the League of Women Voters of Minnesota. We support SF 1046 because we believe that by strengthening the penalties for blocking access to medical facilities the State of Minnesota is making a very clear statement that it is serious about guaranteeing the right of all persons to seek legal medical services. In addition the League of Women Voters supports the constitutional right of privacy of both women and men to make reproductive choices and the efforts by government to limit, within the parameters of the First Amendment, both physical and psychological harassment of a person making those choices.

In a more specific way, we also recognize that medical clinics often serve persons who have fewer options of where to seek health care services. Affluent or well-insured people are able to anonymously check into a hospital facility offering a wide range of health care and they are thus able to avoid being targeted specifically for their right to privately choose any health service. The League believes that all persons regardless of economic means, are entitled to privacy in making health care and reproductive choices, and all people, women and men, have the right to safe access to health care resources of their choosing. We urge this committee to support this legislation.