

jeremy nichols
milo
LD 143

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to LD 143, "An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services." This bill provides ongoing appropriations of \$6,180,000 annually from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, to be distributed to a single grantee for the management and oversight of family planning services. Additionally, it establishes the Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services within the department.

While the title of this bill emphasizes improving women's health and economic security, I believe it requires closer examination. My primary concern is that these funds could be used to support abortion services, which I strongly oppose funding with taxpayer dollars. I do not believe that \$6,180,000 of public money should be allocated annually for this purpose. Moreover, directing such a significant sum to a single grantee raises questions about transparency and accountability in how these funds will be managed and spent.

Though the bill's title may suggest broadly appealing goals, I am wary that it does not fully reflect the potential implications of this funding, particularly regarding sensitive and controversial services. For these reasons, I believe LD 143 does not merit approval.

I respectfully urge the committee to recommend that LD 143 "ought not to pass."
Thank you for considering my testimony.