



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Kurt Zellers  
Speaker of the House  
State Office Building, Room 463  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 56, House File 201.

House File 201 infringes upon a woman's basic right to health and safety—a right every woman has, regardless of how she receives her health coverage. Our place is not between a woman and her doctor. The law already prescribes that state funding may only be used for abortions in cases of rape or incest, for health or therapeutic reasons, and when a woman's life is in danger. House File 201 would interfere with critical and difficult medical decisions.

Furthermore, it is unclear which other programs would also be subject to the prohibitions of House File 201, because the bill does not contain a definition of a "state-sponsored health program." Thus it might apply to state employees who pay premiums to state healthcare plans and to private healthcare programs regulated by the state.

All women deserve to be healthy and safe. I will not approve a bill that infringes upon a woman's Constitutionally-protected rights, discriminates against a woman because of her socio-economic status, or does not protect her health and safety.

Sincerely,

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate  
Senator Amy T. Koch, Majority Leader  
Senator Thomas M. Bakke, Minority Leader  
Senator Dave Thompson  
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader  
Representative Peggy Scott  
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State  
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives



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Dear Mr. Speaker:

I have vetoed and am returning Chapter 59, House File 936.

House File 936 infringes upon a woman's basic right to health and safety. The bill forces doctors to make critical medical decisions, but prevents them from considering the best interests of their patients. This is not consistent with standards of good medical practice.

Medical research, findings, and conclusions are best left to experts who are trained to make medical, not political, decisions, and who are in the best position to protect a woman's health.

Our place is not between a woman and her doctor. Imposing civil penalties and making it a felony for a doctor to deliver care that is in the best interest of the patient is unconscionable.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Senator Michelle L. Fischbach, President of the Senate  
Senator Amy T. Koch, Majority Leader  
Senator Thomas M. Bakk, Minority Leader  
Senator Gretchen Hoffman  
Representative Paul Thissen, Minority Leader  
Representative Mary Liz Holberg  
The Honorable Mark Ritchie, Secretary of State  
Mr. Cal R. Ludeman, Secretary of the Senate  
Mr. Albin A. Mathiowetz, Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives