



February 3, 2025

**Testimony in Support of HB 1450 – Rep. SuAnne Olson
(Parent and Guardian Access to the Medical Examination Room of a Minor)**

Good morning, my name is Matt Flanders. I am the Legislative and Policy Director at Citizens' Council for Health Freedom – a national, non-profit organization based in Saint Paul, Minnesota. Our mission for over 25 years is to protect patient and doctor freedom.

I am grateful to be able to provide written testimony to the House Human Services Committee. Our organization fully supports HB 1450 which provides clear protections for parent and guardian rights involving the health care of their minor children.

As part of our non-profit mission, we communicate with citizens all around the country who are experiencing challenges with health care. Recently, we have heard directly from parents who have experienced the very problems that this bill seeks to solve.

By not having a clear state law outlining parental rights in the exam room, a hospital or clinic can unintentionally put a parent or guardian in the unfortunate position of being at odds with their minor child. When a person in position of authority, such as a doctor or nurse, tells a child that keeping parents in the exam room is their decision – not their parents – it undermines the role of the parent or guardian in front of their child and can introduce the idea to the child that it's okay to keep secrets from their parents.

While we wholeheartedly support the ability of parents or guardians to let their child discuss sensitive topics alone with a health care professional, that decision must be made by the parent or guardian, not the clinic or hospital. After all, the parent or guardian is the primary individual responsible for the care and upbringing of the child.

In conclusion, we fully support HB 1450, which protects and clarifies the right of the parent or guardian to be in the exam room with their child and be notified of this right. We also support how the bill directs health care providers to inform parents in advance of the questions that may be asked of their child regardless of if the parent or the guardian chooses to be in the exam room with their child. Equally important are the provisions in section 1b to protect the privacy of a minor child as well as the protective language in section 3 which clarifies that these provisions do not apply to emancipated minors or in suspected cases of abuse.

Once again, we are grateful to Rep. Olson and all the coauthors, and we urge this committee to support HB 1450. I am happy to answer any questions and appreciate the committee's attention to this important issue today.

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