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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 25

01/22/2025 Authored by Zeleznikar, Backer, Scott, Knudsen, Gillman and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; establishing a program to provide grants to women's pregnancy
1.3 centers and maternity homes; reducing appropriations; appropriating money;
1.4 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 145.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. TITLE.

1.7 This act shall be known as the "Supporting Women Act."

1.8 Sec. 2. [145.909] GRANT PROGRAM FOR WOMEN'S PREGNANCY CENTERS
1.9 AND MATERNITY HOMES.

1.10 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.11 the meanings given.

1.12 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of health.

1.13 (c) "Maternity home" means a community-based, supervised group housing setting that
1.14 provides housing, information, referrals, and support to:

1.15 (1) women who:

1.16 (i) are pregnant or recently gave birth; and

1.17 (ii) are in crisis, are homeless, or are at risk of homelessness; and

1.18 (2) the children of women who meet the criteria in clause (1).

2.1 (d) "Women's pregnancy center" means an organization that provides information,  
2.2 referrals, and support to encourage and assist pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies  
2.3 to term and in caring for their children after birth.

2.4 Subd. 2. **Grant program established.** The commissioner shall administer a program  
2.5 to provide grants to maternity homes and women's pregnancy centers to fund housing,  
2.6 services, and assistance to help pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term and  
2.7 in caring for their children after birth.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Eligibility for grants.** (a) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a women's  
2.9 pregnancy center or maternity home must:

2.10 (1) be a nonprofit organization;

2.11 (2) offer programs and services, or referrals for programs and services, to pregnant  
2.12 women and women who recently gave birth to support, encourage, and assist them in carrying  
2.13 their pregnancies to term and in caring for their children after birth;

2.14 (3) provide programs or services free of charge or at reduced cost, except that any housing  
2.15 provided must be provided free of charge; and

2.16 (4) not use any grant funds to:

2.17 (i) encourage or counsel women to have an abortion that is not necessary to prevent the  
2.18 woman's death;

2.19 (ii) provide abortions; or

2.20 (iii) directly refer women to an abortion provider for an abortion.

2.21 (b) An organization is not eligible for a grant under this section if the organization:

2.22 (1) provides abortions, promotes abortions, or directly refers women to an abortion  
2.23 provider for an abortion; or

2.24 (2) is an affiliate of an organization that engages in any of the acts in clause (1), unless  
2.25 the two organizations are separately incorporated and independent of each other.

2.26 Subd. 4. **Uses of grant funds.** (a) A women's pregnancy center receiving a grant under  
2.27 this section must use the grant funds for programs and services to support, encourage, and  
2.28 assist pregnant women in carrying their pregnancies to term and in caring for their children  
2.29 after birth.

3.1 (b) A maternity home receiving a grant under this section must use the grant funds for  
3.2 housing, supervision, and programs and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant  
3.3 women in carrying their pregnancies to term and in caring for their children after birth.

3.4 (c) A women's pregnancy center or maternity home may provide programs and services  
3.5 directly or may refer women to other organizations for programs and services. Programs  
3.6 and services to support, encourage, and assist pregnant women and women who recently  
3.7 gave birth may address medical care, information about the developmental characteristics  
3.8 of babies and unborn children, nutrition services, mental health care and treatment, substance  
3.9 use disorder treatment, housing assistance, adoption services, education and employment  
3.10 assistance, financial literacy, communication skills, child care assistance, and parenting  
3.11 education and support services.

3.12 Subd. 5. **Privacy protections.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a women's  
3.13 pregnancy center or maternity home receiving a grant under this section must have a privacy  
3.14 policy and procedures in place to ensure that the following information is not made public  
3.15 or shared with any other agency or organization without the woman's written consent:

3.16 (1) the woman's name, address, or telephone number, or other information that might  
3.17 identify a woman seeking or receiving services from the women's pregnancy center or  
3.18 maternity home; or

3.19 (2) communications between the women's pregnancy center or maternity home and a  
3.20 woman seeking or receiving services from the women's pregnancy center or maternity home.

3.21 (b) For purposes of any medical care provided by the women's pregnancy center or  
3.22 maternity home, including but not limited to pregnancy tests or ultrasonic scanning, the  
3.23 women's pregnancy center or maternity home must comply with the requirements in sections  
3.24 144.291 to 144.298 that apply to providers before releasing any information relating to the  
3.25 medical care provided.

3.26 (c) A women's pregnancy center or maternity home receiving a grant under this section  
3.27 must provide the commissioner with information requested by the commissioner for purposes  
3.28 of subdivision 6.

3.29 Subd. 6. **Monitoring and review.** The commissioner must:

3.30 (1) collect from grant recipients information necessary to evaluate and administer the  
3.31 grant program; and

3.32 (2) monitor and review each grant recipient's program to ensure compliance with this  
3.33 section.

4.1 Sec. 3. **REDUCTIONS IN APPROPRIATIONS.**

4.2 The general fund appropriations for the sexual and reproductive health services grants  
4.3 program under Minnesota Statutes, section 145.925, are reduced by \$4,000,000 in fiscal  
4.4 year 2026 and \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2027.

4.5 Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

4.6 \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from  
4.7 the general fund to the commissioner of health for a grant program for women's pregnancy  
4.8 centers and maternity homes under Minnesota Statutes, section 145.909. Of these  
4.9 appropriations:

4.10 (1) \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for grants to  
4.11 women's pregnancy centers and administration of those grants; and

4.12 (2) \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2027 are for grants to  
4.13 maternity homes and administration of those grants.