



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,

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 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