

**The Women’s Foundation of Colorado**  
**HB22-1279 Reproductive Health Equity Act**  
**House Health & Insurance Committee**  
**March 9, 2022**

Thank you, Madam Chair and committee members. My name is Brook Kramer and I am a member of the board of trustees at The Women’s Foundation of Colorado. Thank you for your consideration of this bill and the opportunity to share why its passage is essential for all Coloradans.

The Women’s Foundation of Colorado is a unique, statewide community foundation that focuses on gender, racial, and economic equality. The Women’s Foundation is committed to economic security for all Colorado women and girls regardless of background or identity. Research clearly links full access to reproductive health resources to economic security. To promote justice for women statewide, The Women’s Foundation of Colorado supports access to the full range of reproductive health information and services, including abortion care. We believe that women have the right to decide to have or not to have children, free from stigma.

For over 30 years, we have closely tracked the indicators that research shows lead to economic security. There are countless barriers that prevent women, especially women of color, from advancing economically, such as lack of access to child care, housing, and transportation. Another barrier that should be included on this list is limited access to reproductive health care services, including abortion.

Research, in partnership with what we have learned from our statewide stakeholders, guides our public policy priorities and grantmaking strategies. There is sound evidence to show the connection between access to the spectrum of reproductive health resources - including abortion - and economic security at both the individual- and community-levels.

The main finding of the Turnaway Study, which examined the short- and long-term impacts of receiving or being denied abortion care, is that:

*“...receiving an abortion does not harm the health and wellbeing of women, but in fact, being denied an abortion results in worse financial, health and family outcomes<sup>i</sup>.”*

We appreciate your time and are asking you to please vote yes. Thank you for your public service.

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<sup>i</sup> (<https://www.ansirh.org/research/ongoing/turnaway-study>, UCSF-ANSIRH)