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Testimony in favor of HB 5086 Submitted by Genevieve Marnon Legislative Director for Right to Life of Michigan June 24, 2021

Madam Chair, Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me to testify on The Women's Right to Know Act. Information is the bedrock of informed consent, and this bill provides pregnant women with information. This bill doesn't ban abortion, but rather it strengthens a women's choice with knowledge. Of course, the proabortion lobby hates this bill because they have long tried to deny women access to real information about their unborn child and the reality of what abortion is – the killing of that unborn child. In fact, when the original informed consent for abortion law was passed in 1993, the abortion industry sued to block women from getting information about the abortion procedures and risks. It took over 5 years of battling in court before the courts agreed that women deserve complete information in order to give genuine informed consent.

With over 15,000 chemical abortions taking place each year in Michigan, there are bound to be several women who immediately regret taking the pill and are desperate to reverse the effects. Fortunately, doctors have developed a protocol to reverse the effects of the abortion pill.

Abortion proponents will say that it is unsafe or that the baby will be deformed, but that is not true. A retrospective study done shows no increase in birth defects after an abortion pill reversal is done, and progesterone, which is what is used in the abortion pill reversal protocol, has been safely used in pregnant women for over half a century. More importantly, over 2,000 babies have been saved using the Abortion Pill Reversal protocol or APR. The study done by abortion doctors trying to discredit APR was on only 12 women and was ended early due to serious side effects for the women who were NOT GIVEN progesterone! Proving that it is the abortion pill that is unsafe, not the abortion pill reversal protocol.

With the use of the abortion pill now the number one method of abortion, isn't it time women were given complete information including the possibility of reversal?

The second section of the bill addresses a very common and well know phenomenon – miscarriage. Almost everyone knows someone who has suffered a miscarriage; what they may not know is that natural miscarriage happens in 15-20% of all confirmed pregnancies. However, detection of a fetal heartbeat decreased those odds substantially. Requiring abortion providers to confirm the heartbeat prior to

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> abortion and giving women information about the possibility of a miscarriage based on relevant factors makes sense because no one would want to endure a medical procedure that is unnecessary. With over 29,000 abortions performed annually in this state, how many are unnecessary? Of course, this would cut into the profits of abortion providers, so they will oppose this commonsense measure.

Lastly, I can't tell you how many calls I have gotten from women who were given a distressing prenatal diagnosis and in practically the same breath, the doctor announced "don't worry, it's not too late to schedule a procedure" meaning an abortion. No discussion, no research, no information, just a knee-jerk reaction to discriminate against the disabled child in the womb. Having a prenatal diagnosis shouldn't be a death sentence, but too often it is because parents lack real information and support. Running home and Googling the disorder is not be the best answer, but it is often the only option available. The prenatally diagnosed conditions ANN ARBOR website will provide parents with the data and support they need to make the best decision for them. And, when it is a fatal diagnosis, perinatal hospice is available to walk the family through the death of their unborn child and should be offered but seldom is.

Thank you for your consideration of HB 5086.

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