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Reproductive Health Act HB 4949-4959  
House Health Policy Committee Testimony  
Sept. 14, 2023

Thank-you madam chair and members of the committee for giving me a few minutes to address the reproductive health act. I know others will address the health and safety concerns this bill package raises, but I believe we can all agree that the wellbeing of women is paramount. Obviously, we hope women will make the choice for life, but should she choose abortion, we believe she has a right to valuable information prior to an abortion as well a right to a safe and sanitary clinic.

No industry is left to regulate itself. Repealing these laws allows the abortion industry to operate without transparency, without oversight, and without having to follow the same rules as every other surgical provider in the state. Why would we create a carve out for one industry at the expense of women's health? How does this help women?

Women have a right to accurate medical information, including the risks and alternatives akin to what's provided for any other medical procedures. The informed consent law has been providing women with vital information about her abortion decision for 30 years. The state informed consent website was designed by DHHS in conjunction with medical professionals and provides women the option of viewing information from her computer or smartphone and satisfying the 24-hour waiting period without a trip to the clinic.

We are told these bills are necessary to ensure access to abortion. Yet abortions have increased every year for the past 7 years despite these commonsense laws being in place and Michigan saw a 66% increase in out of state abortion patients which proves these laws do not prevent access. Prior to the 2012 clinic licensing law, some abortion clinics cut corners on safety leading to horrific conditions like we saw in Muskegon. Removing clinic licensing laws puts profits over patient safety.

Vital statistics are kept on all forms of medical procedures. Abortion supporters are now seeking to redefine abortion as a "medical treatment," yet they don't want data collected like all other medical treatments. By eliminating abortion data, the public is kept in the dark about abortion complications, abortion tourism and other demographic data; transparency is fully removed from the abortion profession.

Think about the women in your life who may seek an abortion and ask yourself, will repealing abortion regulations make it safer or less safe for her to have an abortion? I urge you to vote no on the Reproductive Health Act. Thank you.

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