

TESTIMONY ON HB's 4949 – 4959
Passage of the *Reproductive Health Act*

House Health Policy Committee
September 14, 2023

To Chair Rogers and distinguished Members of the House Health Policy committee,

My name is Timothy Johnson and I am a practicing Obstetrician and Gynecologist in Ann Arbor. I'd like to thank Chair Julie Rogers and this committee for holding this hearing, and the opportunity to share my views as a practicing physician on the Reproductive Health Act.

I'd also like to thank the voters of Michigan for passing Proposal 3 because Proposal 3 protects patients' freedom to make their own medical decisions and allows doctors and health care professionals to do our jobs.

While abortion is thankfully legal in Michigan, thanks to the will of the people and the work of lawmakers like you, extremist politicians spent decades passing laws that push abortion out of reach of too many Michiganders. That's why physicians are urging legislators to pass Michigan's Reproductive Health Act.

As a physician, I'd like to be clear about the RHA, which ensures abortion is treated like all other health care, with regulations that reflect current medical standards. To achieve this goal of upholding basic medical standards and protecting people's access to all aspects of health care, the RHA repeals and updates Michigan's outdated and unconstitutional laws restricting access to abortion.

These outdated restrictions include shutting down clinics and severely limiting access to procedural abortion. These restrictions include banning insurance coverage for insurance, which makes abortion harder to access, especially for those working to make ends meet. Another restriction is Michigan's mandatory 24-hour delay, requiring patients to come into a doctor's office two days in a row, or to print and sign an online form.

This requires patients seeking care to take two days off work to come to the clinic twice. This and other restrictions must be called out for what they are, intentional obstructions that are medically unnecessary, designed to deny women health care and prevent doctors from doing our jobs.

For these reasons, I call on you to stand on the side of patients and pass the Reproductive Health Act.

Thank you.

Dr. Timothy Johnson, OB/GYN in Ann Arbor, MI