

RE LD 682 and the other 7 bills!! It is a source of amazement to me that I should have to provide testimony in support of women's reproductive health. I am a retired executive director of a small non-profit and I worked for years with college students and faculty in a nation wide network of schools.

As a student myself years ago, I had a friend, who at age 16 was pregnant. This was 1967 and her father flew her to the UK for a procedure that was not available in this country. I had another friend who became pregnant as a college freshman. She and Her boyfriend cobbled together the funds for her to get a back alley abortion in Detroit. Fortunately, she survived the procedure. Neither friend had legal access to birth control. As a young woman I volunteered at a small Planned Parenthood and I vividly remember helping a 12 year old who was pregnant. She came to the clinic with only her teenage sister to assist her through the abortion procedure. Much later a young woman who worked for me also went through the excruciating decision to terminate a pregnancy – by that time Roe v. Wade had passed and she was able to make this choice legally although it was a difficult one.

I strongly urge the state legislature to maintain freedom of choice for women for all aspects of birth control. I have never met anyone who is 'pro abortion'. It is simply an option that needs to be available for women who face serious medical issues and life choices. Fortunately, medical improvements have made it possible to opt for less draconian medical procedures – oral options like mifepristone and birth control that is more widely available.

No one should have the right to make these critical decisions for women. This should undoubtedly be left to her and her physician. To enable others – legislators, and people who have no personal knowledge or expertise is a travesty. In most cases these other actors have no basic understanding of even basic biology let alone the life circumstances of the individuals at risk.

Thank you for defeating these bills attempting to restrict women's rights. It is extremely unfortunate that state legislators are flooding the legislative schedule with bad bills that take up time and resources that could be put to much better use.

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LD 682
See attached file