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LD 975

I strongly oppose the proposed legislative changes LD975 for the following reasons:

Legal and Ethical Implications of Defining "Human Being" at Conception

This bill attempts to redefine "human being" to include life from the moment of conception. This change could have broad legal ramifications, potentially restricting reproductive rights, criminalizing specific medical procedures, and limiting access to reproductive health care.

Such a redefinition conflicts with established medical and legal precedents, historically recognizing a distinction between a fetus and a legally recognized person.

Erosion of Reproductive Rights and Access to Health Care

The amendments in Sections 2, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 limit access to reproductive health services, including abortion. By redefining family planning services to exclude abortion-related care, the proposal effectively undermines comprehensive reproductive health care.

Restrictions on abortion services will disproportionately impact marginalized communities, particularly those with limited financial resources and geographic access to health care facilities.

The proposed miscarriage reporting requirements in Section 26 subsection 5 for miscarriages are invasive and create undue burdens on patients and health care providers. Such requirements could deter individuals from seeking necessary medical care.

Criminalization and Overreach into Medical Decisions

The amendments in Sections 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 17 expand criminal liabilities related to reproductive health and family violence laws, increasing penalties and extending prior conviction references. While addressing domestic violence is critical, conflating these laws with reproductive health care could have unintended consequences.

The repeal of Sections 8 and 9 removes existing legal protections, weakening measures against domestic violence and coercive control, which could endanger victims rather than protect them.

Undue Burden on Health Care Providers

The proposal places unnecessary and impractical demands on health care professionals, forcing them into legal and ethical dilemmas when providing necessary medical care.

Medical decisions should be based on established best practices and individual patient needs rather than legislatively imposed mandates.

Confidentiality and Privacy Concerns

The proposed amendments introduce requirements that compromise patient confidentiality and could create a chilling effect on individuals seeking reproductive health services.

Mandatory reporting of miscarriages (Section 26) infringes on patient privacy and may discourage individuals from seeking timely and necessary medical attention.

These proposed changes represent a significant overreach of government authority into private medical decisions, reproductive rights, and established legal definitions. Rather than improving public health and safety, these changes risk increasing harm, restricting access to essential medical care, and undermining the rights of individuals. I urge you to reject LD 975 and these provisions and instead focus on policies that protect individual freedoms and access to comprehensive health care.