



Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 9:00 AM
House Committee on Federal and State Affairs
Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair
Opponent Testimony, Written
HB 2813 – Creating the crime of coercion to obtain an abortion

Chair Carpenter and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide opponent testimony on HB2813.

I am here to express my opposition to HB 2813, as I believe this bill falls short in addressing the full spectrum of reproductive coercion and fails to provide comprehensive protection for individuals' reproductive rights. While the intention to address coercion related to abortion is commendable, it is imperative that any legislation on this matter encompasses all forms of reproductive coercion to truly safeguard individuals' autonomy and well-being.

Firstly, I must emphasize that HB 2813 does not adequately cover all forms of reproductive coercion. By narrowly focusing on coercion related to abortion, the bill overlooks other equally harmful behaviors that infringe upon individuals' reproductive autonomy. Reproductive coercion encompasses a wide range of tactics, including pressuring someone to become pregnant, controlling contraception, and coercing someone to not use or removing their access to birth control. Ignoring these forms of coercion undermines the effectiveness of the legislation and leaves individuals vulnerable to manipulation and control.

Furthermore, coercing someone to not use birth control or removing their access to birth control should unequivocally be illegal and addressed within this legislation. Denying individuals access to contraception is a blatant violation of their reproductive rights and can have serious consequences for their health and well-being. It restricts their ability to make informed decisions about their reproductive health and exposes them to the risk of unintended pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

By neglecting to include provisions that explicitly address coercion related to contraception, HB 2813 fails to fully protect individuals from all forms of reproductive coercion. It is crucial that any legislation aimed at combating reproductive coercion comprehensively addresses all tactics used to manipulate and control individuals' reproductive choices.

In conclusion, while the intent behind HB 2813 is commendable, its narrow scope and failure to address all forms of reproductive coercion render it inadequate in protecting individuals' reproductive rights. I urge you to reconsider the bill and ensure that it encompasses provisions that explicitly prohibit coercing someone to not use or removing their access to birth control. Only then can we truly safeguard individuals' autonomy and ensure their right to make informed decisions about their reproductive health.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

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