

Testimony--SB1243  
Monday, February 12, 2018

I am Kacee O'Connor of Boise, Idaho. I am speaking on behalf of the SW Idaho Chapter of NOW, The National Organization of Women. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

It is our position that SB1243 is bad legislation, and I encourage you to vote NO.

1) The section we most object to addresses so-called abortion reversal, which is based on one study that has been shown to be unreliable, unsubstantiated and invalid, 2) it intrudes the state legislature into the sacred relationship between a physician and a patient, and 3) it has the potential to cost Idaho taxpayers substantially because it will likely be challenged and found to be unconstitutional.

The Delgado study I mentioned has been discredited by renowned medical groups including the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Women's Association as well as state health departments. It has been declared to be unethical, to have no basis in medical science and to be potentially dangerous.

Licensed physicians are expected to follow evidence-based practices evolving from peer reviewed research. This bill undermines the sacred relationship between a physician and a

*patient because it  
is founded on the  
premise that  
a woman  
would →*

OR SHOULD regret the decision to have an abortion, however medical providers cannot perform the procedure on patients who have not made a firm decision and signed a consent affirming that. Studies show that women typically do not experience uncertainty once they decide to have an abortion.

I am a recently retired Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor. In my practice, the many women I counseled following abortions overwhelmingly reported that the situations that led them to require abortions were traumatic. They did NOT, however, regret having them. My clients would have been harmed by this legislation because of the intrusion by lawmakers into a private medical decision made with a doctor based on sound medicine. This law would put physicians into an ethical dilemma because of incongruence between state law, professional codes of ethics and the Hippocratic oath.

These monumental issues mean that such legislation would likely be challenged in court and found unconstitutional. That could be a backstop, but it would mean taxpayers would once more get the expensive bill for a legal challenge to defend legislation that should not have been created in the first place.

Please vote NO on SB 1243. Thank you.

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