

MINUTES
HOUSE STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

DATE: Wednesday, March 07, 2018

TIME: 8:00 A.M.

PLACE: Room EW40

MEMBERS: Chairman Loertscher, Vice Chairman Monks, Representatives Luker, Crane, Palmer, Barbieri, Holtzclaw, Harris, Armstrong, Giddings, Manwaring, Zito, Scott, Smith, Kloc (Tway)

**ABSENT/
EXCUSED:** None

GUESTS: The sign in sheet will be retained with the minutes in the committee secretary's office until the end of the session. Following the end of the session, the sign-in sheet will be filed with the minutes in the Legislative Services Library.

Chairman Loertscher called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

S 1243: **Rep. DeMordaunt** stated the purpose of **S 1243** is to require the Department of Health and Welfare to provide additional information, within existing informed consent materials, to a patient considering a chemical abortion, including information on contacting health care professionals with whom she can consult about treatment decisions and potential outcome options. This adds where a woman can obtain this information to make a well informed decision about her child. Language is changed to "observe the heartbeat", rather than "hearing the heartbeat."

Rep. DeMordaunt introduced **Dr. Matthew Harrison** who spoke in support of Abortion Pill Reversal (APR), **S 1243**. APR is supported by real science, is safe, and effective. Proper, informed consent is necessary for women to understand a second chance is available. Progesterone is a bioidentical, natural hormone, FDA approved, Category B safe for pregnant women, and in the same category as Tylenol. Used for 50 years in fertility care for pregnant women, case studies of over 500 women using progesterone had a birth defect rate of less than or equal to the national average of 3%, mainly minor issues such as birthmarks. Unsafe medications involve two pills used for abortion; Mifepristone causes death, the second pill, Misoprostol, can cause facial nerve paralysis and limb abnormalities if the fetus survives. Under our protocol, the second pill has not been taken, and children who survive the abortion pill show no other birth defects. Mifepristone, the abortion pill, is a progesterone receptor antagonist blocking the action of progesterone by blocking the receptor, and prevents formation of healthy blood vessels to the developing embryo, and the mother's body is tricked into thinking there is no progesterone. The lining of the uterus sloughs off like in a normal menstrual cycle and the embryo dies. The second pill, taken 24-48 hours later, induces contractions, expelling the embryo. APR is able to compete with Mifepristone, activate the progesterone receptor, and sustain the life of the embryo. Mothers not successful with reversal have expressed gratitude and relief that they tried to save their children.

Mistie Tolman, Planned Parenthood, **Julie Custer**, AAUW, **Alice Durrand**, **Kathy Griesmyer**, ACLU, **Paige McMahan** (speaking for **Jackie**), **Kendra Sanford**, **Jacqueline Perez**, **Rev. Duval**, Unitarian, spoke in opposition of **S 1243** stating this medicine has not been proven medically sound, and Planned Parenthood wants to give women accurate information.

Rebekah Buell presented testimony **in support** of Abortion Pill Reversal (APR). In desperation, 19 year old Rebekah Buell sought a medication abortion, feeling she had no other option. She took the first pill at Planned Parenthood, and was told to take the second pill the next evening. After taking the chemical abortion pill, Ms. Buell wanted to stop the abortion. A phone search led her to the APR website. She contacted them and received professional medical help, including taking the APR. Ms. Buell had a successful pregnancy, delivering a healthy baby boy.

Kerry Uhlenkott, Right to Life Idaho, spoke **in support** of **S 1243**. This legislation gives mother's a choice by giving them information. Over 2600 women have called the professionally staffed Hot Line.

Terry Lenox, RN, stated nurses practice with compassion and respect for the inherent dignity, worth, and unique attributes of every person. The American Nurses Association interprets this provision to insure patients have "the right to self-determination" including "a moral and legal right to determine what will be done with and to their person. A nurse's obligation is to assure the patient has accurate, complete, and understandable information to base her decision on regarding a course of treatment. A woman who chooses drug-induced abortion has little time to grapple with a life altering decision, made under harrowing circumstances. Stories portray themes of fear, ambivalence, coercion, abandonment, and lack of support. Each Abortion Pill Reversal medical encounter begins with informed consent and ends with a comprehensive discharge plan.

Angie Duier and **Nicki Kruse**, Stanton Health Care, **Christian Welp**, **Bishop Peter Christenson**, Roman Catholic Diocese, **Julie Lynde**, Family Policy of Idaho, **Brittany Jones**, Attorney, Family Policy Alliance, spoke **in support** of **S 1243**. Chemical abortions account for over 50% of abortions in Idaho. These decisions are made under stress, duress, and trauma. It would be tragic to not inform a woman of options such as abortion reversal. Regret is such a cruel burden to carry.

David Ripley, Executive Director, Right to Life of Idaho, requested support for **S 1243**, stating Rebekah is not alone, and this offers hope to desperate women. In violation of the law, **Susan Thayer**, Planned Parenthood, created a protocol by conducting an experiment on abortion using web cams, and gave Misoprostol incorrectly, in violation of the FDA. There were 8 reported deaths. Based upon this information, the FDA changed in 2016.

Rep. Smith spoke **in opposition** of **S 1243**, stating the Abortion Reversal Pill hasn't been tested for safety or side affects. Louisiana came to the conclusion there was no scientifically sound evidence. Arizona passed the first law and repealed it unanimously in 2016.

MOTION: **Rep. Monks** made a motion to send **S 1243** to the floor with a **DO PASS** recommendation. **Motion carried by voice vote.** **Rep.(s) Smith** and **Tway** requested to be recorded as voting **NAY**. **Rep. DeMordaunt** will sponsor the bill on the floor.

ADJOURN: There being no further business to come before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Representative Loertscher
Chair

Jayne Feik Spinato
Secretary