

Elyse Durand

My name is Elyse Durand, and I am representing myself. I am urging you to vote 'no' on House Bill 638. This bill is fundamentally unnecessary. Regardless of where you stand on abortions, you have to understand that they are one of the safest procedures. According to the Center for Disease Control, abortion procedures have over a 99% safety record. This means, that only .04% of the time, complications arise. Less than 1%. There is absolutely no need to waste funds scrutinizing abortion providers that have proven their ability to consistently provide safe and legal abortions.

Additionally, Idaho already requires abortion providers to report complications. In 2014, the state's *own data* reports only one complication. Why are we wasting our time and efforts further scrutinizing a safe and legal medical procedure? The language and stigma surrounding abortions already produces enough shame. This bill would make abortions out to be a medically dangerous and risky procedure. It just isn't.

Idaho has created many hurdles for women seeking safe and legal abortions. This regressive policy would force women to endure more governmental intrusion in her personal healthcare decisions. This politically-motivated bill goes far beyond what is required to improve public health. It is a waste of time, money, and resources for our state. Especially for a state that prides itself on its fiscally conservative policies, the willingness to justify spending funds on an unnecessary project is shameful.

Lastly, this bill seeks to criminalize and otherwise penalize reproductive healthcare providers from doing their jobs. I ask that you trust healthcare providers, and the evidence provided today, and vote no on HB 638.

March 12, 2018
H 638