

House State Affairs Committee
Idaho State House
Boise, Idaho 83720

Re: Senate Bill 1049

February 26th, 2019

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii, I write today to voice Planned Parenthood's opposition to Senate Bill 1049.

As the nation's leading provider of sexual and reproductive health care services, Planned Parenthood works every day to ensure that people in Idaho have access to high-quality, compassionate sexual and reproductive health care services. We support public policy that improves health care access and promotes healthy people and healthy families. Unfortunately, Senate Bill 1049 does none of these things.

Rather than enacting proven, effective policies to improve the health and wellbeing of Idahoans, this bill simply duplicates existing federal law under which Idaho and other states already operate. Because Idaho already follows the federal ban on so-called "partial birth" abortions, as it is required to do, this legislation is redundant and unnecessary. State law also contains very similar provisions.

Implementing redundant requirements is simply an attempt to score political points that does nothing to improve health care access in our state. What's more, "partial birth abortion" is neither a legitimate medical term nor a procedure that is recognized by the medical community. Adding this inflammatory and vague language to state law is yet another attempt by politicians to insert themselves into the exam room and politicize basic medical care. The practice of medicine should be left to doctors, not politicians.

Instead of wasting time on duplicative, politically-motivated legislation that seek to shame and stigmatize people seeking abortions, legislators should redirect their energy to passing measures that would actually improve the health and welfare of people in Idaho, such as expanding access to the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health care.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We look forward to working with you to pass legislation that creates real, tangible improvements to the health of Idahoans across the state.

Sincerely,

Mistie Tolman

Idaho State Director
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii