

Written Testimony **UNFAVORABLE** to House Bill HB1171 Declaration of Rights - Right to Reproductive Liberty

Senate Finance Committee

March 29, 2022

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Dear Committee Chair and Committee Members,

I oppose HB1171. Why would I oppose a bill that is about reproductive rights? Isn't that a good thing? I would venture to say that reproductive rights, in their purest form, are indeed worth supporting. The main issue here is that this bill is named incorrectly, and further, is quite possibly *intentionally* misleading.

I will start with an obvious statement: Reproductive rights do not extend beyond reproduction. Those would become parental rights. This bill does not seem to understand that, because it would grant, as a basic right under the purview of reproduction, the ability to end a pregnancy. That is the problem: once a woman is pregnant, reproduction has already taken place. The new life that is growing and forming in the womb is separate and distinct from both mother and father. It has its own set of unique DNA. It is its own person.

For this bill to allow ending pregnancy, what it's really granting is the ability to perform an abortion. To terminate a life. To kill. To murder. This is not a reproductive right of the mother, but capital punishment upon the child. Do you support capital punishment? Do you support such a penalty on those who have not even had a chance to commit crimes worthy of such a sentence? To grant someone the "right" to perform such an act is the epitome of BAD LAW.

The writer of this bill must have known this, because the wording that would appear on the ballot, should you fail in your duties to protect your citizens, only indicates that this bill is about reproductive rights. This is, on its face, a lie by omission. Once again, once reproduction has occurred, a law regarding reproductive rights no longer applies.

The act of abortion is already in violation of our constitution's declaration of rights, in Article 24. The children being murdered have not had a fair trial before being dealt the death penalty, and thus amending HB1171 into our constitution would create a self-contradiction. This is deeply unsettling to have our state's defining document hold an illogical self-contradiction.

I pray that this committee sees the dangers to life and liberty that this bill holds, and votes UNFAVORABLY to HB1171, or let it expire in this committee without receiving a vote to proceed.

Sincerely,
Seth Lipko