

Favorable Statement HB1281
Health – Abortion – Ultrasound and Wait Time
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As a retired registered nurse, I am strongly in favor of HB1281. I am also a former volunteer of over 8 years at a pregnancy resource center.

While volunteering at a pregnancy resource center, I observed that most if not all the women had experienced one or more abortions. Those abortions occurred when they were young and lacked knowledge and guidance. They went to abortion clinics and underwent abortion the same day and not long after arriving at the clinic. Ultrasounds were not always offered and when done, the young ladies were discouraged from looking at the pictures. They were not encouraged to leave and come back after processing the information. That is certainly not good medical practice. That's putting profits over patients, namely women.

Outside of emergency interventions for various medical crises, the normal and ordinary practice for someone receiving an invasive procedure is time to think it over and weigh all the options along with risks versus benefits. Abortion is an elective procedure in most cases. It is not necessary or in the woman's best interests to rush her into a same-day abortion. Men do not have same-day vasectomies. They meet with the physician and have time to discern. Women deserve a similar grace period for discernment.

With modern technology, full informed consent should include an ultrasound and an explanation of the visual from a qualified radiologist. While a radiology technician can perform the ultrasound, the reading should come from a radiologist and that can take up to a day for the physician to return his report. This is also common practice for most medical and surgical interventions to obtain bloodwork, run tests and evaluate. Tests are done, and the information is explained to the patient. This rushed same-day, wham-bam-thank-you-ma'am approach is looking at women as mere dollar signs. This is a lowered standard of care for women, especially poor women.

Women deserve to know the complete picture of their pregnancy and the condition of their bodies. Modern technology provides ultrasounds which show the actual baby and not just a biased description provided by the business that stands to gain financially from the procedure. Women deserve a protected right to have time to process and discuss the medical information. There needs to be a deterrent to prevent the abortion facility from rushing a woman into the same day abortion and interfering with a woman's ability to process and discuss her pregnancy and abortion with others.

Please support good medical practice and a woman's right to know. **I strongly recommend a favorable report for HB1281.**