

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1515

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 8:00 AM

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Deborah Darcy

Self

Aledo, TX

Every CHILD deserves a chance to live. It's a human soul with a heart it's innocent and please consider this when making your decisions on abortion.

Jessica Tiedt

Self, Chief Court Administrator

Georgetown, TX

I do not support this legislation. It does nothing to actually help reduce abortions. Please do not pass this out of committee. Thank you.

ARTHUR ELLIS

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not keep putting limits on abortions. Seems like we need to get on with other things beside always finding ways to makes abortions so hard to get. Even when it is for things such as rape, or danger to the mothers. Get on with running the states business and stop keep coming back, once again to ban abortions.

Abraham Oommen

Universal Life Church

Houston, TX

When my personal opinion I feel like when a heart beat is detectable in a child that they will feel all the pain of dying that they would out of the mother's placenta. People do worse things in that to each other while they're alive but a mother's right to choose doesn't mean that she's not being forced into that position.

Walter Grimes

self

Kilgore, TX

I do not support this, the woman has the right to determine the course of her own life.

Molly Frisinger

Self

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Austin, TX

This would be a terrible thing to put someone through when they are already suffering. Medical care should be between a patient and their doctor.

Liz Hanks

Self

Houston, TX

I am absolutely opposed to this bill. I knew I was pregnant because I was testing constantly - because it was a wanted pregnancy. When it's an accident, or something goes wrong in the pregnancy, knowing what to do before this bill makes your decision a liability is impossible. But I suppose that is the whole point. As an attorney and a woman perfectly capable of making my own decisions, this law is an abomination and an affront to all women and families.

Bergan Casey, Mrs

Planned parenthood of greater texas

Austin, TX

Legislators need to keep their hands off our bodies. Abortion is a difficult and sometimes necessary procedure that is a women's business and not yours. There are so many more important issues for you to be handling this session including gun control, energy regulation and education funding than restricting a woman's access.

Haleigh Wallace

Self

Austin, TX

Dear representatives,

I am writing to you with deep concern about the 7 anti-abortion bills that are scheduled to be heard on Wednesday of next week.

I want to share with you my story. It is a very uncomfortable thing to do, but I hope that you read it, and I hope that you can understand the way that these anti-abortion bills affect real people.

Last year, I found myself in a position where I had had a sexual encounter that I did not want to have with someone that I did not want to have that with. Despite using a condom and taking emergency contraception immediately afterwards, I found myself pregnant. For my physical and mental health (and because very simply, I do not want to bring a child into this world), I knew that continuing the pregnancy was not an option for me.

Because of all of the regulations that Texas already has in place, this was not a fast or easy process. Because there are so few clinics left in the state, each one is very full, and the soonest I could get an appointment was almost two weeks later. Because of the waiting period that Texas mandates, I then needed to schedule a second appointment, and again, because of the lack of availability, I was unable to make an appointment right away. By the time I had jumped through all of the hoops that Texas already requires, I was 7 weeks pregnant.

Despite the fact that I had used two forms of contraception, despite the fact that I had realized I was pregnant as early as it is medically possible, despite the fact that I called to schedule my appointment that same day, I was pregnant, and I was already outside of that 6 week window.

The majority of people do not realize they are pregnant as early as I did. Then add to that the lack of clinics in the state and the mandated waiting period. Understand that a 6 week abortion ban is a TOTAL abortion ban. This is unconstitutional and it threatens the health and well-being of every person in this state who can get pregnant.

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Sometimes we find ourselves in situations that we don't want to be in. Unfortunately, there are times when we don't have control over the sexual situations that happen to us. Sometimes we can take every precaution available, and yet things happen anyway. Politicians try to paint people who have abortions as irresponsible, but sometimes you can do everything right, and it is not enough.

I did not deserve to be punished for that encounter. I did not deserve to have my health and my life put at risk by continuing an unwanted pregnancy. I am thankful every day for my abortion and for the doctors and nurses who kindly and gently helped me through it.

I know how easily any of this could happen again, and the idea that I might not have a say in what happens to me next terrifies me and gives me deep anxiety.

Please understand that these laws affect real people and put real people at risk. Understand that these restrictions are not just restrictions, but effectively a complete abortion ban.

Thank you for reading.

Amanda Reyna

self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose HB 1515: Bans abortion at 6 weeks. Many people are unaware they are pregnant at this time, And allowing anyone in Texas to be sued for 'aiding and abetting' in abortion care, including doctors, abortion funds and even a patient's loved ones who support their decision creates undue burden on the state and persons involved.

Laila Khalili

Myself

Houston, TX

This bill BANS abortion at 6 weeks. It allows anyone in Texas to be sued for 'aiding and abetting' in abortion care, including doctors, abortion funds and even a patient's loved ones who support their decision.

I had an abortion when I was 21. I was in college full time, working full time, and had undiagnosed depression and PTSD. I was in no way ready to have a child, and I knew I wanted an abortion. I didn't find out I was pregnant until I was 9 weeks along.

Had this bill been law ten years ago, I wouldn't have been able to get my abortion. If I had been able to find a medical professional to provide me with abortion care, they could have been sued. My friend who drove me to my appointment could have been sued. My friends who helped me pay for the abortion could have been sued.

Why is this your business? Why are you spending the little time you have in session creating cruel, unnecessary legislation that hurts your constituents? This legislation is a violation of my privacy and my constitutional right to access health care. It is an insult to me and every single person who has had an abortion, to every person in this state.

I promise you that you know and love people who have had an abortion. Vote against this legislation. For me. For your loved ones. For all Texans who deserve to make personal health care decisions with dignity and respect.

Vote no.

Ella West

Self, Student

Houston, TX

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My name is Ella West, and I am writing to oppose House Bill 1515. This bill would ban abortions at 6 week and allow anyone in Texas to be sued for aiding abortion care, including doctors, family members, abortion funds, and more. I believe that if this bill was passed, it would effectively ban abortions in general. Most people are not aware they are pregnant until far after the 6 week marker, as such it would be impossible for someone to access an abortion if they did not know they were pregnant. Additionally, there are so many barriers in place to pregnant people receiving their health care that 6 weeks is no where near enough time to find an abortion provider.

As a teenager in Houston, I have seen the need for abortion services firsthand, a part of healthcare that is already difficult to receive. It is heartbreaking to watch bills such as this one further restrict women's rights when there is so much work that needs to be done to help them during this time.

Furthermore, this bill is another way to intimidate healthcare workers and supportive family members. Already, Texas has far too many restrictions on abortion care. These are systemic obstacles meant to keep groups of people, BIPOC communities, Black, immigrant, LGBTQ+, low-income, and youth, from seeking abortion care. This bill would further limit the help people could receive when pregnant.

Maureen Johnson

self medical health professional

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1515 which bans abortion at 6 weeks and allows anyone in Texas to be sued for 'aiding and abetting' in abortion care, including doctors, abortion funds and even a patient's loved ones who support their decision.

This is a divisive attempt to get around the law by encouraging citizens to turn on one another and takes the responsibility for enforcement of law from where it belongs. Passage of this bill will also result in more court costs and an increasingly polarized citizenry.

Since pregnancies are rarely detected before 6 weeks this effectively becomes a ban on abortion, which is unconstitutional. Furthermore passage of this bill will cause immense suffering for mothers who are not equipped or desirous to be mothers and to the babies born to them.

For these reasons I ask you to vote against HB 1515.

Maureen Johnson

Heather O'Donnell

self

Austin, TX

My name is Heather O'Donnell and I oppose House Bill HB 1515.

Abortion is healthcare - period. The state has no right to ban abortion, which the passing of this extreme bill would be doing. Similar bills that have been passed in other states have been overturned. Most people do not even know that they are pregnant at 6 weeks, so this bill is a ban on abortions full stop. Additionally, most Texans are pro-choice AND our country is pro-choice. Abortion is legal. Stop attempting to legislate reproductive freedom. If the state is so worried about abortion, why don't you mandate vasectomies?

It is not up to the state or federal government to regulate women's bodies. Women are certainly more than capable of making choices for themselves, as we are whole human beings. If you don't want an abortion, then don't have one. But do not attempt to institute a ludicrous law such as HB 1515.

Oppose this legislation now.

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Kristin Jensen

Self

Austin, TX

Much of our population does not believe abortion should be a crime. Please do not interfere with the autonomy of human beings by prohibiting this aspect of personal health and freedom.

Matt Kaufmann

self; computer scientist

Austin, TX

Many reasonable people differ in their views on abortion. Government should avoid using its heavy hand in such matters, so I oppose this bill.

Danielle Lail

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The "heartbeat" that this bill refers to is not based on science but is caving to a loud group of people who are basing their decision on religion when we need to have a separation of religion and state. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Deanna Koblenz

self

Tomball, TX

Seeking an abortion is not something gleefully sought. It is a CHOICE made of desperation, by an already living human being, which for no reason, be a decision resulting in a "civil penalty" or indeed, a "criminal offense". An unplanned, unwanted pregnancy is a devastation, not a wonderfully joyful experience, as being pregnant should be. What if someone you love, a daughter, a relative, a friend, were to be confronted with such overwhelming pain? With your bill, the person who would be destroyed is the one alive, not the cells inside her body. Shouldn't SHE count? Shouldn't SHE matter to you, as a representative of this state? Perhaps better to show care for those of us already here. We are the ones who need you. Thank you for listening.

Megan Seaholm, Dr. (PhD)

NARAL (AVOW). and myself

Austin, TX

Also opposed tp SB1647, HB1280 and others. This terms Texas legislature is considering a number of bills that in one way or another will restrict a woman's choice to have an abortion....even a medication abortion in the earliest weeks of pregnancy. I submit tha the Legislatue seeks to practice medicine without a license. Unless a woman is deemed to mentally incompetent, and therefore, under the care of a guardian, whether or not to end a pregnancy should be her decision.

I understand the moral objections to abortion. Those who object should hold discussions in their churches and elsewhere. Put their views in the "marketplace of ideas" and allow women to make their choices. Some people are opposed to sex outside of

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marriage, but except in the case of minors or bigamy, we do not create legislation to punish such behavior or to make birth control mandatory or illegal.

So, I think it is essential that our legislators leave the decision about whether or not to continue a pregnancy up to the pregnancy woman. She may consult her friends, relatives, ministers, doctors. She may choose to read about fetal development. But, none of this is the legislature's business. TRUST WOMEN.

Lisa Garner

Self

Devine, TX

All people are created in the image of God whether they believe it or not. Killing any unborn child is murder. After a heartbeat is detected there is no denying that there is life of a human being. There are so many kinds of birth control and also so many people waiting to adopt babies that there should never be abortions.

Alice Ayers

self

San Angelo, TX

Please support HB 1514 the Texas Heartbeat Bill. We should not allow taking the lives of innocent children.

Larry Collins, Rev.

3:16 Evangelistic Association Inc.

Mckinney, TX

I fully support this bill. Please protect the innocent.

Ken and Mae Zook

Citizen

Dallas, TX

We strongly urge each of you to support and coauthor SB 8 and HB 1515, the Texas Heartbeat Bill, and other important pro-life bills, including SB 650.

A heartbeat is a key medical indicator of life and it begins at a biologically identifiable moment in time. Women deserve the opportunity of knowing about the cardiac activity of their babies and of knowing that their doctors are required to inform them of it.

Each life has value and purpose, and we have an obligation to defend it. Please coauthor and publicly champion pro-life bills like SB 8, Texas Heartbeat Bill, to protect the lives of unborn babies.

lee cisneros

self

houston, TX

This bill is very important and will serve to testify to the beauty of human life for all Texans. The people of Texas have voted for Life over and over again. They seek justice for the unborn, those who do not have a voice, those that are innocent. The natural law that we, as humans, need to be aware of is the same law that the Declaration of Independence refers to; "We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal and that they are endowed by their Creator certain inalienable rights, of

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which are Life , Liberty and The Pursuit of Happiness." The first mentioned is Life. It is a truth that no man or government should allow to be ignored or dissolved. Life, the word seems so simple , but yet holds more meaning than that of the whole world. It is up to us to protect it, cherish it, nurture it, and promote it. It will be what future generations remember us by or judge us by. It will be a symbol of what our state stood for and what was in our hearts. Do not be afraid to stand up for Life. It is the most important thing we can do.

Susanne Wright

Roman Catholic; proud mother

Llano, TX

I hope you will support this bill, and any other bill that limits a person's "right" to commit murder of any innocent . The world will one day gasp in disbelief at the atrocities now being committed.

Can you imagine the horror, if anyone should propose "aborting" convicted murderers by confining the in a small room and randomly slashing them to death? What if they also proposed slashing them carefully, so as to "harvest" parts of the body for research?

Alvin Dominique

Self, Marketing professional

Prosper, TX

I write in full support of HB 1515. Life begins at conception. My wife and I have battled through infertility treatments and miscarriage in our journey, and it has only strengthened our faith in the preciousness of every single human life here on Earth. Texas, like the rest of the country, have been entrapped in the immoral abortion "legalization" abomination from the Roe decision for too long. This bill, though not going far enough to protect the unborn baby's life, is an important step in rectifying that terrible judicial decision in a way that also acknowledges the modern medical advancements since 1973 that allow us to more clearly hear and see the children in the womb in 4-D clarity. Please join the Senate in supporting this bill as a step towards completely protecting the most vulnerable Texans...the unborn Texans.

Jenn Tawney

Myself

Conroe, TX

Please vote in support of this bill!

Mike Knous

Self, Engineering Manager

Van, TX

I support HB 1515 (TEXAS HEARTBEAT BILL) and respectfully request the committee approve the bill and pass it to the full House for consideration.

Katherine Tully, Mrs.

Self, Homeschooling mother

Houston, TX

Dear Committee members,

Am sharing part of my correspondence with my Representative, Ann Johnson, with my encouragement and reasons to support this Heartbeat Bill. I ask you to consider these facts in making your decision to vote.

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“Thank you for your thoughtful reply.

Is interesting that you mention faith. I have a personal faith as well, but I believe that this heartbeat bill contains a moral situation (like rape and murder) that does not depend on religion to make an argument.

Once an organism has a heartbeat, it is pretty safe to say, in biological terms, that it is a living being.

And in the case of abortion, we are discussing human beings.

We fight for animal rights for animals with heartbeats. Is appropriate to clarify language within human rights - for our tiny humans with heartbeats.

Women have many choices that are legally protected. It should not depend on another person’s religious objection or “judgement” to declare that once another’s heart is beating within her womb, there are now two person’s rights to consider from that time forward.

Government rightfully interferes with the “personal and private decisions” of men who seek to have sex with a woman without her consent (rape). And again, with men or woman who consider taking another person’s life unless in self defense (murder).

And so it should have a compelling reason to protect human life from the heartbeat forward. This is not a matter of healthcare - this is a human.

Healthcare is the business of health and wellness that comes before and after.

Thank you for reconsidering. I do hope you choose to support the Texas Heartbeat Bill.”

Thank you,

Katherine Tully, concerned but hopeful citizen

Jennie Kuzdzal

self / biologist

Houston, TX

My name is Jennie Kuzdzal, and I oppose House Bill 1515.

Pregnancy carries inherent health risks, and no one should be forced to unwillingly endure these. HB 1515 would ban abortions by the time many women realize that they are pregnant. Since 6-week bans are unconstitutional, this bill will undoubtedly end up in costly litigation at tax payer expense. It also actively encourages frivolous civil lawsuits by unaffected third parties. It is impossible to predict what situations might arise during pregnancy, and I would not want to be pregnant in a state where women have lost the right to make their own health care decisions. As a mother of two, I believe that these decisions should be made by an individual and her doctor, not the government.

I urge you to defend women’s rights by rejecting House Bill 1515.

Faith Thompson, Mrs

Self- homemaker

Cedar Creek, TX

Please pass this!

Debra Calliccoat, Mrs

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Self/retired

San Antonio, TX

Please support the heartbeat bill!

Nancy Cunningham

Self-retired

Red Oak, TX

As a grandmother of 24 and a volunteer at a pregnancy center, I strongly urge you to realize that a child is a living human from the moment of conception and deserves all the rights to life that we all do.

David Hogan

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Is it no wonder there is so much deadly violence today when we have shown children for generations that the most innocent, vulnerable, defenseless beings of all can be ripped to shreds within the very confines of their own mother's wombs. We have demonstrated that life does not matter at any stage. This is one critical reason why we need to demonstrate once again that life does matter. Please demonstrate this by supporting the heartbeat bill.

Brian Smith

Personal

Amarillo, TX

Please support the pro-life Texas Heartbeat Bill, HB 1515  
We as Texans need to protect the innocent lives of these children!

Jasmine Pena

Self- Epidemiologist

Houston, TX

My name is Jasmine Pena and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill would make it logistically impossible for many individuals to obtain a safe abortion. For many reasons, most women are not aware of the pregnancy by the 6 week mark. According to the Journal of Child and Maternal health, on average pregnancy awareness takes place around 5.5 weeks. This house bill would not leave nearly enough time for an individual to consider their options, schedule the medical procedure, and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period. Abortion access is important because unintended pregnancy poses a financial burden on both the mother and the state. Finances are often a major part of the decision when individuals choose abortion. What sense does it make to force individuals to carry out a pregnancy and be responsible for a child they cannot afford? This bill would force many people to become dependent on social services in order to take care of a child. Abortion access is also important for the sole purpose of bodily autonomy and the necessary right for individuals to make the important decisions regarding their futures and whether or not they choose to be a parent. I urge you to oppose HB 1515 and give individuals more time to realize they are pregnant and more time to decide whether abortion is the right choice for them. Thank you.

Robert Bernardini

Self, Retired

Houston, TX

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I am in favor of HB1515 being passed by the Texas House and forwarded to the Governor to become law.

Texas has been the historic leader of the nation in promoting the rights of its citizens.

This critical bill represents the Texas majority's view on the unborn and their right to be recognized as fellow citizens.

The current use of sonograms to display active human life has been instrumental in encouraging women to oppose propaganda that would have them believe that a fetus is simply a lump of tissue and could be casually destroyed. It is not; it is the visible evidence of a human child. In most cases, it is the proof that convinces a mother to keep and bear this, her precious child.

The Heartbeat Bill will provide unborn Texans a baseline of protection from the very moment a heartbeat can be detected. Science agrees this is between 16 and 22 days after conception. Texas must provide protections for the lives of all its citizens, no matter how young.

I urge the House Public Health Committee to favorably recommend this bill to the House and then fully support Representative Slawson's bill, along with Senator Hughes' work on SB 8.

The lives of another generation of Texans is awaiting your action.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Robert A. Bernardini

14811 Forest Lodge Circle  
Houston, Texas 77070

Scott Williams

self

Arlington, TX

Thank you for hearing this very important bill. I cannot believe that we need legislative action to determine the beginning of life, but here we are. Any other life on this planet is determined at conception and cell division. We have lost our way but need to draw a hard line in the sand. At the very least, once the heart begins to beat we have life. Is that life viable outside the body, no? But is the mother any less pregnant? How do we protect this vulnerable life? We care for our animals better than human beings. Just because the human is enlightened enough to decide to kill its' own young, does not make it right. Please ensure that this bill is given the proper vetting without the paid opposition influences. Abortion on demand is abhorrent and a sad statement on societal norms.

Jane & Charles L. Stephenson

Self / Retired

Plano, TX

Please vote YES on HB 1515 and save the lives of innocent unborn children. The moment a heartbeat is detected is the moment a human is alive. Aborting a helpless baby when its heart is beating is tantamount to murder. Please vote YES to HB 1515 and YES to companion SB 8 by Senator Hughes to protect the lives of the unborn.

Matthew Barattino

Self

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New Braunfels, TX

As hard as it is to say, Texas is not leading the way when it comes to abortion. This bill needs to be passed immediately to protect the lives of our most vulnerable. I urge this committee to pass the heartbeat bill to save the lives of every precious gift from God.

Kim White

Self; homeschool parent and social worker

Royse City, TX

Women should not have the right to end human life!!

Susan Taylor

self

Canyon Lake, TX

Re HB 1515 cannot be constitutional, and would ban abortion before a woman knows she is pregnant. That is contrary to the settled-by-Supreme Court decision of a woman's right to privacy, and therefore, agency, over decisions regarding her own body and health. Reject this bill. Preserve free access to abortion, a woman's right. Prevent the ensuing harassing and frivolous lawsuits by various and sundry strangers attacking doctors or anyone else associated with providing an abortion or any help with one.. There is no justice for women in this act.

Rich Bello

self/self-employed

San Antonio, TX

Please pass out of the House Public Health Committee the Texas Heartbeat Bill, HB 1515. Thank you.

DeAnna Fling

Self/Healthcare Manager

Willis, TX

Thank you for allowing me to speak. The unborn child is a precious gift from God. Science tells us that a heart starts beating 18 days from conception. It is viably important that we protect our most innocent children by mandating physicians to check for a baby's heartbeat, informing the mother if the presence of a heartbeat is detected, then take the necessary steps to protect the life of the baby. Physicians should also be held civilly liable for participating in and abetting in an abortion. Thank you.

Liz Paulette

self

New Braunfels, TX

Please pass the heartbeat bill. We are the voice for the unborn. It is up to us to protect these innocent babies.

Lillian Neal

Self

Sweetwater, TX

Please support this bill. Let every unborn life be protected. Abortion is really child sacrifice. Enough babies have already

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been sacrificed in our country. Thank you.

Christine Newton, Mrs

Self, retired

New Braunfels, TX

I will never regret choosing life for my child back many years ago when abortion was available to me. That child was adopted and very beneficial to society. I am so glad I didn't believe those that said my baby was just a mass of cells. They lie

Linda Simcox, Mrs.

Self/Retired Texas Public School Teacher (31 yr.)

Houston, TX

Please pass this important bill out of committee for debate and, hopefully, passage by the Texas House. When the U.S. Supreme Court found for Roe and legalized abortion, they also made the statement that if science advanced over the years and the beginning of life could be determined, they might need to revisit their ruling.

Science HAS advanced and their ruling needs to be revisited and the revisiting can start here in the Great State of Texas. If a veterinarian hears the heartbeat of a puppy or kitten in the womb of its mother, he tells their pet's owner, her off-spring are alive. Why not a human baby in the womb of its mother?

A society that does not respect life is NOT civilized and will not fare well before the Lord of Life. I pray that you will vote on the side of life always.

Maureen Herman, Mrs.

Self/ Homemaker

Mcallen, TX

Sirs, I am in support of this bill, Texas Heartbeat Bill, HB 1515, and urge you to pass it for the sake of the rights and dignity of the unborn child.

Veronica J Esparza, Mrs

Self/ retired educator & Counselor

El Paso, TX

It's imperative to ban any and all abortions

Courtenay Ellison

self

Texarkana, TX

Abortion is the violent destruction of human life. Whether that life is dependent upon another, is irrelevant. If a heartbeat is detectable, that should be an easily delineated point, but not the only point, at which neither the mother, nor any other person has the right to end the life. The "choice" about what happens with a women's body is made before sexual intercourse occurs, not after. Abortion destroys innocent life and devalues all life. If we can coldly eliminate the most vulnerable life, what's to stop the justification of destroying life outside of the womb? All life is sacred.

Jaclyn Hall, Ms.

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Self (Field Representative for U.S. House of Representatives)

Kerrville, TX

Thank you madam chair for bringing this bill for a hearing. There are several states that have passed similar heartbeat bills, but have encountered road blocks to enforcement. I believe that abortion is the intentional killing of a pre-born child. Because of that fact, I believe abortion should be completely abolished beginning at the moment of fertilization. Please bring HB 3326 by Rep Slaton for a hearing and pass it out of committee as soon as possible. Respectfully members, you know what the right thing to do is.

Arnoldo Marez

Self; Business Co-Owner

CEDAR PARK, TX

I feel that we are Human Beings, as soon as we have a Heartbeat. And when a Child is killed, EVEN AFTER THE HEARTBEAT IS DETECTED, through Abortion, that, that is MURDER!

Barbara Garbacz

Self - retired

Dallas, TX

This is an attack on women's rights and would force women to find an unsafe practioner in the dark alleys. Women have the right to a safe and healthy abortion if they choose one. If the supporters of this bill truly believed in pro-life, there would be bills to provide pre- and post-natal care, nutritious food supplies, medical coverage for preventative care, education, an increase in minimum wage, eliminate the death penalty, etc.

Legislating abortion is not something the TX legislature should even be involved with - it is extreme intrusion into a woman's decision on her health care. Most Texans support access to safe, legal abortion. Instead the legislature should be addressing the multitude of other priority issues facing Texas, such as: COVID, the energy collapse during February's storm. It's time to stop these attacks on women's rights to choose. Maybe start a bill that requires vasectomies instead!

Amy Morgan

self - Freelance Writer

San Antonio, TX

What's a life worth? I was born in 1967, five short years before Roe v. Wade made killing inconveniently conceived babies the law of the land. Five days after my birth I was taken home by my adoptive parents who raised me with love, sparing no expense to ensure my wellbeing. At 36, I met my birth parents. Circumstances aligned perfectly, and in two weeks I was laying eyes on the first blood relative I had seen in my life. Love Multiplies, it never subtracts. My parents are in the late 80s now. It's my turn to show them the love and care they gave me and my sister adopted from another family, with whom I was raised.

But I also share a wonderful relationship with my birth parents. Meeting them answered questions for all of us and brought closure and healing. My 20-something sons are my birthmother's only grandsons. They are also my parents' only grandchildren. Their lives bring joy.

I've been told by a director of a crisis pregnancy center that women are reluctant to place their babies for adoption because they are afraid, "The baby will hate them." Somehow, illogically, it's easier for them to rationalize killing the baby than risking difficult emotions.

Let me set the record straight. I AM the baby. And I don't hate my birthmother at all. In fact, I applaud her courage and am so grateful I am here today because she chose to do the hard thing and allow me to live.

My husband and I are active members of our community. We give to charities worldwide and personally volunteer at homeless shelters, pregnancy care centers and food banks. I've run half marathons to build wells in Africa. We've sponsored 3 children through international charities. As a published journalist, I've helped spread the word about many worthwhile ministries. In my prior career I introduced the Chicken Pox Vaccine to South Texas. As a PTA volunteer, I spearheaded a Drunk Driving Simulation event for 1600 teens that may save countless lives.

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I have a heartbeat! I had one 53 years ago in my mother's womb. What would have been lost if I had not been allowed to live?

John Steele

Self

Georgetown, TX

This bill must be passed, it must be enforced. It is shameful that this nation, this society would ever consider killing a human for what amounts to convenience.

Malkia Hutchinson-Arvizu

Self, Director of Communications

Houston, TX

My name is Malkia Hutchinson-Arvizu and I oppose HB 1515.

This bill will effectively ban abortion which is a common reproductive health procedure that is far less dangerous and deadly than labor and delivery. The entire purpose of this bill is to test both Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey now that a conservative Supreme Court is in place. We have actual problems in this state that need to be addressed. Our children are living in poverty and are among the most uninsured in the nation. Yet granting them, and their parents, access to healthcare is not a priority for this legislative body.

The ability for any person to sue an abortion provider and/or anyone helping someone acquire an abortion is as heinous as the state's desire to impinge on Texan's reproductive liberty. Myself and the majority of Texans reject any attempt to curtail our reproductive rights and urge state leaders to focus on solving the very real problems Texas faces.

Leonard Foster, Mr.

Self

Richardson, TX

I believe that with a citizen's rights comes responsibility to others for their actions. In the case of abortion, there is a responsibility to know the possible outcomes of the sex act; the responsibility of determining if a life has been initiated; and the responsibility of sustaining the life that has been initiated. Therefore, I support HB 1515 and I ask all the committee members to also act responsibly in support of it.

Joy Gautney

Self / Home Health Aide

Mesquite, TX

A heartbeat is a key medical indicator of life and it begins at a biologically identifiable moment in time. Women deserve the opportunity of knowing about the cardiac activity of their babies and of knowing that their doctors are required to inform them of it.

Each life has value and purpose, and we have an obligation to defend it. Please champion pro-life bills like HB 1515 and SB 8, Texas Heartbeat Bill, to protect the lives of unborn babies.

Thank you.

Mary Lou Tazelaar, Mrs

Self

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Spring, TX

You must do everything you possibly can under heaven to make sure this bill goes through. We as conservative Christians must stand up to protect the innocent unborn. These unborn lives have no voice in the matter of abortion especially when a heartbeat is detected. Please be their voice and pass this bill through. Thank you for your time and God bless. JESUS is the WAY, TRUTH & LIFE.

Marlene Rubin

Self/Retired

Houston, TX

Abortion by a licensed and appropriately trained physician should be allowed up to the 12th week of pregnancy and even later if the mother's life is in danger.

NO to HB 1515

Linda Balson

Self, Retired

Yoakum, TX

Honorable Members of the House Public Health Committee,

I am requesting that you join in protecting the lives of the unborn from the moment a heartbeat is detected by favoring and voting for HB 1515. Texas must act this legislative session to protect innocent unborn life at the very moment a heartbeat is detected! Please do all you can to protect the innocents who are unable to protect themselves by passing HB 1515 as soon as possible.

Thank you for serving the unborn, Texans and Texas. God bless you. Linda Balson

Tamar Bennetsen

Self, Physician

Northlake, TX

An human embryo is just that: human.

An human fetus is just that: human.

Human tissues procured from live human fetuses come from: humans.

These pre-born living fetuses are human beings and will never be anything less worthy of human life, but we will not be worthy of the term 'humanity' or 'humane' if we do continue to deny these humans their right to existence, as opposed to their extermination.

Cyrstella Morales, Principal

Self

San Angelo, TX

Please support this bill to protect the precious life of babies.

Deborah Ide

self/editor

Saginaw, TX

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Protecting the lives of the unborn should be a priority at every level of government. I urge you to prohibit abortions when a heartbeat has been detected, even earlier if that is possible. Life is our most precious gift from God, we MUST protect the unborn who cannot defend themselves, and who should be cherished and nurtured, not murdered.

Debra Leff

Self

Austin, TX

I, Debra Leff, oppose this 6-week ban on abortion. I just feel that these decision are best made between a woman and her doctor. We will never know what causes someone to want to terminate a pregnancy at 6 weeks, often before she barely realizes she is pregnant. That is her decision. I oppose this bill because it impinges on the rights of individuals to make decisions for their own lives.

Sharron Albertson, Texas state director

National Life Chain

Plano, TX

Thank you for considering the fact that in all areas of medicine, a detectable heartbeat is accepted as showing that there is life. At the end of life, we know that the patient has passed away when the heart stops; therefore, at the beginning of life, the same fact is true.

Laurie Coffin

N/A

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1515. The 6-week ban proposed in HB 1515 has been struck down repeatedly by the courts.

According to a recent Hart Research poll, 77% of Texans agree that whether someone has private or government funded healthcare, it's important for every Texan to be able to get the full range of reproductive healthcare, including annual screenings, birth control, pregnancy tests, and abortion.

It is time for the Texas Legislature to stop violating the privacy of Texas women and stop regulating our healthcare decisions. I urge you to reject these bills and focus on delivering solutions to the real problems Texans currently face.

Donna OConnor

Christians nationwide

Franklin, TX

According to the Bible, God formed us in our mother's womb. Life, all life, is precious and should be protected. I don't believe that any child should be killed especially one that you can detect the heartbeat. We all know a heartbeat means life, we strive to revive people who have medical issues unless they are of sound mind and sign a DNR.

Shouldn't a child have the option to deem their own life to be maintained even if their own mother is trying to kill them? A child is viable with a heartbeat and should not be killed because it is inconvenient!

Mary Hedrick, Ms.

Self (Retired)

Texarkana, TX

"I'm a child not a choice"!!! (quote from a bumper sticker). A baby is a human being at the moment of conception; human beings do not start off as blobs. He or she is a BABY, precious in GOD's EYES!!! This slaughter must STOP NOW!!! Please pass HB 1515 by Rep. Slawson. God is a loving and merciful God; but He is also a JUST God! We will have to answer to Him for the murders of all these precious children....HIS CHILDREN....as we all belong to HIM!!!

Joe Luttrell Jr

Self

Burleson, TX

Abortion needs to stop! ALL life is special and everyone deserves the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Life is life in the womb and out. Please, end this destructive practice in our state.

Psalm 139:13-16 ESV (David talking to God)

"For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them."

Jeannie Hassell

self / retired

Zapata, TX

Texas must act this legislative session to protect innocent unborn life at the very moment a heartbeat is detected! The Senate companion SB 8 by Senator Bryan Hughes has already passed the Texas Senate therefore likewise pass HB 1515 by State Rep. Shelby Slawson. Your prompt attention to the pro-life Texas Heartbeat Bill is appreciated.

Shelley McCarty

Homemaker

Aledo, TX

As a concerned Texas citizen who believes in protecting life and abolishing abortion, I am asking you to support the Heartbeat Bill HB1515.

In Psalm 82:3 the bible says "

Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.

Thank you for your time and great concern for this urgent matter.

Shelley McCarty

Rebekah Adams

BSF children's team

McKinney, TX

Babies are pre-born people. They are living beings, not merely clumps of cells, as pro-death folks claim. This is not a religious issue. It is a scientific fact. Pre-born babies deserve the same right to life that post-born people have. I support HB 1515.

Jeffrey McCarty

TMJ Diagnostics

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Aledo, TX

Please STOP abortion in Texas!! Vote for HB 1515  
The most important issue of our day. A second Holocaust!

In Ps. 82:3 the bible says  
Defend the weak and the fatherless; uphold the cause of the poor and the oppressed.  
Thank you for your immediate attention to this very important bill. Shelley McCarty

Cathy Driscoll, Mrs

Self

League City, TX

I used to be pro abortion. I have three children. The first two tested positive for Down's syndrome. My first one is now going to vet school her test turned out to be a math error. My second child tested positive for downs and we waited months to get an amino test. The specialist told us the test had a chance of causing a miscarriage. We decided to forgo the test. We only took the test on the first two babies because our doctors told us that it would be good to know so we could prepare for Down's syndrome since we knew we would not abort. This experience gave us heartbreak and a uncertainty and unnecessary guilt. And my second baby was not downs either! Our first doctor was a god send for me. He saw how upset I was because I felt guilt about having a baby late in life. He encouraged me to not let it scare me and he cleverly showed me a sonogram of my little Mexican jumping bean. I fell in love with my baby even though she was just a jumping little dot at the time.

My experience showed me how parents can be pressured into late term abortions.

My third Child, I did not know I was pregnant until my fifth month. he was so quiet and I was over weight and did not show. I refused to take another test. He s now my fully grown son who passionately protected me and his sisters with supreme aggression from the time he was born. Pass this bill!

Thaila Robertson

Self Retired

ABILENE, TX

Please support this bill about protecting the lives of the unborn the minute a heartbeat is detected.

Natalie Roehen

Self, Teacher

San Antonio, TX

I believe this bill puts a devastating, near-insurmountable obstacle for obtaining an abortion in the state of Texas, and should not be passed. In most cases, a fetal heartbeat can be detected at about 5.5 to 6 weeks of gestation--that's under two months total of pregnancy, and many people do not know they are pregnant until long after that time has occurred. If this bill were to pass, it would be impossible for a pregnant person to legally seek an abortion if they so desire, and it is absurd to expect any person who can potentially become pregnant to definitively know so in the earliest stages of the first trimester. In addition, this would criminalize any pregnant person who has to abort in later trimesters due to health complications, many of which would already endanger the life of the unborn anyway if the pregnancy were allowed to proceed. By passing this bill, it places extra undue burdens on millions of pregnant people during an already emotional and physically-stressful situation, and that is without taking into account other factors that would necessitate an abortion in many cases.

Lori& Stockstiel

National Council of Jewish Women San Antonio

Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

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This is completely out of synch with my religious beliefs, which state that a fetus is not considered a human being until it takes its first breath!

Eddie Jimenez

Self

Carrollton, TX

My father asked my mother to abort me. She opted not to. My life matters. No one gave me a choice to say that I wanted to live. My life matters. I am glad I was born.

Lisa Stone

self: educator

Houston, TX

I join all those, including a majority of Texans, who oppose efforts to limit abortion rights and access.

This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

I urge you to oppose HB 1515, and all HBs that aim to diminish women's abortion rights.

Isabel Ray, Mrs.

self; communications

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1515. This bill is blatantly unconstitutional, and other state's versions are not in effect because the courts see that these restrictions are wrong. Putting this bill forward is not only an attack on pregnant Texans but on all Texas taxpayers, as trying to defend this bill in the courts will waste public money.

Alongside its legal errors, this bill goes against the medical expertise of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. It is a skewed, quasi-scientific attempt to control Texans—it is not protecting anyone.

I believe, like the majority of Texans do, that abortion must remain legal and safe. I believe that pregnant people don't lose their constitutional rights when they become pregnant. I strongly oppose HB 1515 and urge all members of the committee to vote against the bill.

Susan Wilson

Self

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San Angelo, TX

I support this bill. I believe that once a heartbeat is detected an abortion should not be performed. There are so many couples that want children that cannot have their own children and their only chance for children is through adoption. We abort babies at unheard of numbers in this country and the lives of these babies should be loved and appreciated.

CPT. N. Robichaux Robichaux

self law enforcement

Winnsboro, TX

Please back this bill. Texas needs to protect the unborn!

Robin Harger, Mrs.

Texas Constitutionals

Leander, TX

In a culture where human life is becoming so devalued, the heartbeat bill reminds us that every life matters even from the very beginning at conception.. Fight for the ones who cannot fight for themselves. Take a stand for what is right, what is decent, and what is moral.

Debby Collins, Mrs

Self Retired

New Braunfels, TX

Please support HB 1515

Naomi Melendez

self- parent/grandparent/elementary teacher

Wharton, TX

I wholeheartedly support not only the the Preborn NonDiscrimination Act by representative Matt Schaefer, but also the Texas Hearbeat Bill submitted by representative Shelby Slawson. Thank you for protecting live from conception as God intended and representing our great state of Texas well! Life should be protected from conception through all ages and stages of life. We are headed in the right direction as a country and a state when life is valued and respected. Thank you for standing for what is right.

Sincerely,

Naomi Melendez

Holly Sessom

Self

Highland Village, TX

Psalm 139: 13-16

“For You formed my inward parts; You covered (wove) me in my mother’s womb. I will praiseYou, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul know very well. My frame (bones were) was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth, Your eyes saw my substance, being yet

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unformed. And in Your book they all were written, the days fashioned fir me, when as yet there were none of them". NKJV

When you think of your life and those of your parents, their parents and the ones before them, you realize the blessing of life for the mere fact, you've had a legacy of loves me ones who've lived before - gave life to you and did not consider themselves the rightful decision maker of your being or not being.

God Almighty is the giver of life, He has a specific plan and purpose for each one. Look at the blessings of your children and grandchildren. Can you see your life without one of them?

Life is a beautiful gift from an all loving, all knowing God who values each one. Let us not be a people who fall under the stronghold of evil and pretend, it's all about the rights of the mother. The mother has the sweetest gift ever given, a child created by God, who already knows the number of hairs on that child's head. His thoughts are precious of this sweet child. See life as a blessing, a gift and be thankful, you're own life was not held in the balance by legislatures determining whether or not, you were worthy of life.

With all Sincerity of heart lifting prayers fir you and our Nation,

Holly Sessom

Linda Green

Self- labor and delivery nurse- retired

Gilmer, TX

When I was in college I was "pro choice", but one day came to the realization there was basically no difference between killing a 7 week old baby outside the womb or a 7 week old baby inside the womb.

Being present at the birth of extremely premature babies and seeing their perfectly formed little bodies countered the "just a lump of tissue" propaganda. No one wants to speak the truth that "pro choice" should be called "pro death" of the defenseless. It is painful to even write that.

Psalm 139:16 speaks of life inside the womb even before the heartbeat- "Your eyes saw my unformed substance..." Please speak up for those who have no voice. Thank you.

Deborah Potts

Self/Homemaker

Mabank, TX

The heartbeat bill misses the real mark which is life begins at conception. That is the time the Bible explains life begins. But this bill will be a major step in stopping this defilement. The blood of Able cried out to God and the blood of the babies cries out. I ask you to pass this bill to stop shedding innocent blood in Texas.

Kimberly Mull, Mrs

Self/ rancher+ laser tech

San Angelo, TX

Thank you for considering this important bill.

I fully believe all people should be treated fairly with respect.... including the unborn. In the United States of America all races, genders, faiths of people should be protected from murder by anyone who wishes to simply dispose of them. I'm proud that Texas is moving to protect our children and display that in Texas ALL LIVES MATTER.

Melissa Smith

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Self

Spring, TX

I support this bill and that it be passed. Life begins at conception. In addition to this bill there should be more support given to women in educating them on their own sexual health practices.

Mary Mabry

self

Spring, TX

The majority of Americans want abortion to be legal and safe. I do not agree with the legality of civil action in opposition to abortion.

Cynthia Reese

Self

Selma, TX

I am in favor of this Bill protecting the rights of unborn children. This is very important to me personally and to our nation.

Carol Ortiz, Ms.

self/retired

Montgomery, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1515. Please vote NO to advance this bill.

Carol Ortiz, Ms.

self/retired

Montgomery, TX

I OPPOSE HB 1515. Please vote NO.

Carka Allen

Self/teacher

Austin, TX

I agree with HB1515 by Slawson. After a child's heartbeat is detected you should not be able to have an abortion. There are many institutions to help people with carrying life due to a choice of having sex voluntarily or involuntarily.

Danna Ghafir

Self

Sugar Land, TX

My name is Danna Ghafir, and I am a medical student in Texas, and I opposed HB 1515. I'm writing to urge you to support bills that improve women's health care in Texas and oppose the bills that do not, and HB 1515 will have horrible consequences for the health of Texas women.

We are taught in medical school that, as future physicians, we must advocate for the fundamental principles of autonomy, social

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justice, and the primacy of patient welfare. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

As a medical student with expertise in the science of reproductive healthcare, I urge you to oppose the anti-abortion bills that will prove to be extremely dangerous to the health of Texans, including my future patients.

Linda Davis

OLG Divine Mercy Center

Dale, TX

Please support HB 1515. We must protect innocent lives and stand up for the unborn. We must protect life. Thank you for your service.

Theodore Thevaos, Mr.

LifeShare Church/Pastor/Self

San antonio, TX

As a Texan, husband, and father of four children I want to thank you for representing us in Austin. I'm sure it's challenging to listen to so many voices, but I believe you will make the right decision that reflects what is best for every life and best for the future of our state. A very few have tried to convince the masses that a baby in the womb is not a life, but I want to remind you that it is. And no matter the circumstances surrounding that child's conception, that little life needs to be protected. God Almighty is the giver of life and it's his prerogative, not ours. We need to continue to remind people to make better sexual and family decisions and hold them responsible and not punish the child that feels pain and deserves to live. There are options such as adoption and people that desire to raise children. I sincerely believe those that have participated in abortion and given aide to this atrocity of 60 million babies killed in our nation will be held accountable by God on judgement day. As strong as I say this, I also believe there is forgiveness, healing and restoration for women, men, and politicians who taken human life wittingly or unwittingly. As a pastor, I've met and counseled many individuals who regret their decision to abort their baby. They still suffer psychologically beyond what they were warned about. I ask that you vote for the Texas Heartbeat Bill and make sure Texans are not required to fund abortions through government sponsored agencies such as: Planned Parenthood. Thanks for you consideration. Ted Thevaos

Deborah O'Brien

Self

Benbrook, TX

Please pass this bill to protect our children who have a right to be born and live lives to do whatever their calling in life to do. Thank you!

Edna Coleman

self --retired/housewife

The Woodlands, TX

Please oppose this bill.

John Walker

Mr. and Mrs.

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Austin, TX

I beg you to support this bill to protect the life of unborn babies. In order to continue to secure the blessings of God for Texas, we must demonstrate that we are willing to take a stand against the murder of children. Not only to prevent the horrible act of butchering little children but also to prevent the obscene billion dollar industry involved in selling pieces of their bodies.

Do not for an instance think that God is not watching your actions on this bill.

Carol Chatfield

self / pharmacist

Lubbock, TX

Please support this bill to protect future unborn Texans. Abortion is a blight on this country and we will be held responsible for this disaster. Please stand up and say we must protect those who have no voice, and protect the sanctity of life so that we can truly affirm that each person is worthwhile and equal under the law.

Cindy McIntyre

Self

Conroe, TX

We must recognize life when a heartbeat is heard & protect all preborn babies at all costs. This bill is definitely a step in the right direction. Vote yes for HB 1515.

Rhonda Bone

self

The Woodlands, TX

I support HB 1515, and agree that abortions should be banned after detection of an unborn child's heartbeat.

connie matthews

self - CPA

Temple, TX

My name is Connie Matthews and I personally oppose House Bill 1515. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Lea Isgur

self

Austin, TX

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I am strongly against this bill. I think a woman should have a choice to end a pregnancy, and the government has no business deciding when this should occur. Most women are not aware that they are pregnant until after 6 weeks, so this bill is ridiculous. A heartbeat does not determine life. Please vote against this horrible accost to women!

Dana DuTerroil

Self/Writer

Houston, TX

My name is Dana DuTerroil and I oppose House Bill 1515.

I personally oppose this bill as a government intrusion with respect to women's health care. Allowing the government to usurp the decisions made between a woman and her doctor is a personal affront as well as being constitutionally unsound. Most women don't even know they are pregnant at 6 weeks thereby making this bill an underhanded attempt to ban all abortions. Given that similar bans have been struck down, why is this being pushed forward at a time when real health issues like the pandemic are looming large?

I care about abortion access because I grew up knowing my reproductive freedom and health were secure - I want to make sure future generations of women don't fall victim to this nanny state legislation that's quite unbecoming for the Lone Star State where we take pride in our independence.

Please reject this legislation as unwarranted government interference and show that you respect women by allowing them to make decisions with their doctor without getting permission from the legislature first.

Sincerely,

Dana

Kathleen Davis

Self, Office Manager

DALLAS, TX

My name is Kathleen Davis and I oppose bill HB1515. Taking away safe legal abortions will not stop women from having/doing an abortion. All this will do is cause women to practice self abortion or visit an unsanitary place to have this performed which can lead to loss of life for the woman. Please consider this when looking at any of these anti-abortion bills presented to you.

Place yourself (walk a mile in someone else's shoes) in what a woman goes through when making this tough decision. It is not easy but when the final decision is made it should be safe and legal. Making abortions unavailable doesn't make them miraculously disappear, they will still be there no matter what so they need to be safe and legal. Thank you for your consideration on opposing HB1515.

Carroe Todd

Self

Ft w, TX

I oppose this bill.

Lorri Haden

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Lorri Haden, and I oppose HB 1515. The only meaningful way to reduce abortions is to make birth control affordable and widely available, to make quality healthcare affordable and widely available, and to make affordable and accessible the necessary supports for parents to care for children with complex medical needs. Virtually eliminating abortion, as this bill would do, puts both the mother and the child at considerable risk.

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HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

I am urging you to vote NO on HB 1515.

Patricia Flournoy

Self paralegal

Ovilla, TX

Women already have the right to choose when they get pregnant, they should not have the right to murder their child. Once conceived the child has its own rights and we should protect this most vulnerable human being.

Laura Richardson, Dr

Self, teacher

Houston, TX

My name is Laura Richardson, and I oppose this House Bill. Access to abortion is a women's health issue. Forced birth is against the American (and Texan!) values of individual rights and liberty. Please allow women the human right of bodily autonomy and reject this legislation.

Thank you.

Linda Demjen, Rev.

A Cup of Cold Eater Ministries, Inc.

Houston, TX

The life of a child in the womb deserves every right that we outside the womb have been given. The most important is their right to life. First and foremost because their heart is beating they are a human being created by God with a purpose and a destiny in this world. No one has the right to determine they should be murdered in the womb and this practice should be stopped.

I urge you to stand for life and pass this bill without question. It is the will of the Creator and we need to follow His will not the will of man.

Jayme Burkhart

Self

Katy, TX

I urge you to support HB 1515 - simple, if you have a heartbeat - you are alive and deserve to be treated as such! We have an obligation to protect and help those who can't help themselves! What could possibly be more helpless than an unborn child!

Sarah Dropek

Self-teacher

Houston, TX

My name is Sarah Dropek and I oppose HB 1515. I urge you to oppose this legislation. Making abortion more difficult to get will only bring harm to the people who want an abortion. This bill is unconstitutional in how it attempts to make abortion de facto illegal as most women do not know they are pregnant until well after six weeks. Most drug store pregnancy tests do not even have accurate reliability that early on. My own doctor was surprised I knew I was pregnant at seven weeks when I had my abortion as

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most people do not. The decision to have an abortion should rest solely with the person who is pregnant, banning abortion after six weeks takes the decision out of a pregnant person's hands and makes it a politician's choice. This is a blatant violation of bodily freedoms and I urge you to oppose this legislation. As someone who has had an abortion, I was grateful I could get one safely and easily, and now happily living with my partner and first child, I am still glad I was able to make the choice that was right for me and my family. Do not take that choice from others.

Nancy McLellan, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Stefanie Mueller

Self

Georgetown, TX

I strongly oppose abortions, especially after an unborn child's heartbeat is detected. Heart beat is a sign of life as noted by doctors who declare death when the heartbeat is gone, so choosing to destroy a fetus after a heart beat is equivalent to murder. We must take action against this and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Juliana Quiroz

Self/Mother

Sachse, TX

I am pleased that Texas is taking a stand on this most important issue regarding our most vulnerable citizens. As a young adult I bought into the notion that this abortion was about politics and choice. Thankfully, I have grown older and wiser. I have since learned that this issue is about the sanctity of life and about the empowerment of women. As a mother of four beautiful children, nothing can compare to the sense of wonder, humility and strength that I experienced, and continue to experience, during pregnancy, childbirth and the parenting of those children. We have, to our shame, taught people in our society that those things are worthless and unnecessarily burdensome, which is a nefarious lie. In order to combat these lies, we must pass bills such as HB 1515 that once again reassert that children are precious, not only to their families but to our society.

daniel kanter, Rev. Dr.

first unitarian church of dallas

dallas, TX

this bill should also not proceed. this bill creates poverty by reducing the ability of a woman to make a decision with time to understand that she is pregnant and to ponder her right to her decision about her body.

Christine Hurley

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self

Houston, TX

My name is Christine Hurley and I oppose House Bill 1515. Abortion is healthcare and is a right. This is a blatant attempt to control women's bodies -- there is not medical science backing this up as good practice. The majority of women don't even know they're pregnant by 6 weeks and doctors shouldn't be persecuted for helping women obtain healthcare. Constituents are disgusted and exhausted by representatives shoving Christian morality laws down our throats. If protecting life was truly important to you, you'd do actual useful things like abolishing the death penalty or saving children at the border, or ending child poverty. Reject this frivolous, unconstitutional law or we will see you in court.

Susan Absher

Self/Retired

Overton, TX

Though current technology can only detect the human heartbeat as early as 6-7 weeks (even before the mother may realize she is pregnant), it is an indicator the child will continue to grow and thrive until birth. That child, yet unborn, has the rights of inherent value and protection as a 20 week pre-born child, teen, adult or senior adult of advanced age. Beginning of life to end of life must be respected. I urge you to pass this bill into law.

Michael Knuffke

The San Antonio Family Association

San Antonio, TX

We vote for this bill and what it is trying to accomplish. Abortion in Texas has robbed our future, we would not have a social security issue of no workers for every person retired, had abortion not been legal. Texas is fiercely independent, and we cherish LIFE, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness more than any other state in the union. As such, every person, from fertilization to natural death has right under the state of Texas, where we have deep values in marriage, respect for parents, and families. This heartbeat bill is definitely a step in the right direction. Have the victims become the plaintiffs to protect the vulnerable in our justice system is indeed real justice.

Christine Middleton

Self Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

This bill is unbelievable. Most women are not aware if they are pregnant at six weeks. This is an assault on a woman's right to calmly and safely consider if an abortion is right for her. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. I would also like men to consider this - I've often heard about punishing the woman if she has an abortion. What about punishing the man who impregnated the woman and supports the woman decision to have an abortion by paying for the procedure and helping her through it? I once heard a male minister say that, if men could get pregnant, the right to safely choose a legal abortion would be written in the Constitution.

Kaylan Smith

self

Houston, TX

It is appalling as a woman to hear my government representatives try to push legislature forward that would set women back by 50 years. This extremist agenda and HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218 and HB 3760 are bills that are unnecessary. I do not understand why conservative representatives continue to push anti-abortion laws when they have shown time and time again, they don't care about the welfare of the mothers or babies born.

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I would like a government that focuses on real problems with our healthcare. How about the number of uninsured Texans? Children that need medical care? Children that are below the poverty line and often suffer food insecurity?

Neil Cohen

S/E

Austin, TX

You anti-abortionists are like a carpenter whose only tool is a sledge hammer. Whenever you're faced with a construction job, you smash everything to pieces. If you really want to reduce abortions, you should adopt measures to help pregnant women and mothers of newborns. See the conservative column Ross Douthat -- What Has the Pro-Life Movement Won? You should ""brainstorm all the community support systems that would need to be stronger in a world where abortion is illegal: mental health services, addiction-recovery programs, affordable child care." <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/04/02/opinion/pro-life-movement-14th-amendment.html>. To criminalize abortion without such measures is not only ineffective -- women facing impossible choices will manage to get abortions -- but cruel, and leads to the wasted lives of helpless children. Ironic that you guys claim to believe in personal freedom -- such as the freedom not to wear a mask when that simple measure might save lives, except when it's the freedom of a woman to make one of the most important choices in her life. Instead of criminalizing abortions, how about criminalizing guys who get women pregnant when they don't want to be?

Crystal Gonzalez

Self - resident of San Antonio, TX

San Antonio, TX

My name is Crystal Gonzalez and I oppose House Bill 2337 because it restricts access to abortion.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

I care about abortion access because every person has a right to choose the size of their family.

Rebecca Marques

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this dangerous and harmful bill.

Allison Greer Francis, Mrs.

Individual-mental health

San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB 1515. Roe v. Wade is the law of the land, whether we like it or not. These bills do nothing but drive up costs for Texans when have to be defended in court, and are always found unconstitutional.

Michele Scott

self

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Snyder, TX

My name is Michele Scott and I oppose House Bill 1515.

This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

I urge you to reject this bill.

Tom Nobis

self - retired

Houston, TX

I am Tom Nobis. I am representing myself. I rise in favor of HB 1515 The Texas Heartbeat Act.

The Texas Heartbeat Act This bill prohibits abortion after the pre-born child's heartbeat is detectable and equips the Pro-Life movement with the legal tools needed to combat the abortion industry and protect Pro-Life laws.

Human life begins at conception. Under the Declaration of Independence, our nation was founded on the principle of right to life as a God given right which government may not abridge without due process. Abortion, by whatever means, violates that founding principle. Current Texas law defines a "individual" as a human being who is alive, including "an unborn child at every stage of gestation from fertilization to birth." An "individual" includes "person." Texas Penal Code Sec. 107(a)(26) and (38). The recognition that an unborn child is a person means that person is entitled to the US and Texas Constitutional rights of equal protection and due process. Abortion on demand, by whatever means, violates those rights of the unborn and results in the taking of life without providing that unborn life its constitutionally guaranteed rights of equal protection and due process.

Psalm 139 13:16 reads Before I was You knew me. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb... You know me right well; my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Plank 324 of the Texas Republican Platform lays out support specifying that abortion should be prohibited once a heartbeat is detected among other reasons.

From the Principles specified in the Texas Republican Platform,

We expect our elected leaders to uphold these truths through acknowledgment and action.

- 1) We support the strict adherence to the original language and intent of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitutions of the United States and of Texas.
- 2) The sanctity of innocent human life, created in the image of God, which should be equally protected from fertilization to natural death.

This bill would uphold these principles.

The companion bill SB8 has passed the Senate and has been received in the House.

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This bill has 63 authors & co-authors.

With such support among House members and the passage from the other chamber, I urge you vote to pass this bill out of committee to proceed to calendars for a hearing on the floor.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kayleigh Garcia

Texas Equal Access Fund

Garland, TX

“My name is Kayleigh Garcia and I oppose House Bill 1515.”

As someone who exercised her right to have an abortion, I personally oppose this bill. HB 1515 is unconstitutional and bordering on an outright ban on abortions.

This bill works to ban abortions before many people even know they are pregnant. This ban will make it medically and logistically impossible for birth givers to determine they are pregnant and receive safe and legal abortions before the 6-week deadline. It is no surprise that the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. I care about abortion access because recent studies show that 1 in 4 women have had abortions, and the rates of abortions are increasing for poor women. You will not be preventing abortions with HB 1515, you will only be preventing safe and legal abortions, I urge you to reject HB 1515.

Moniqa Paultet

TEA Fund

Richardson, TX

My name is Moniqa Paultet and I am a native Texan serving on the board of directors for TEA Fund. I'm writing today in opposition of HB 1515. This bill is an unconstitutional restriction of abortion that creates a near-total ban on it. The World Health Organization consistently finds that restricting abortion does not decrease its frequency but does endanger and kill more pregnant people who need abortion services by forcing them to seek unsafe alternative care. This bill is not only unconstitutional, but an enormous waste of taxpayers' funds since it has also been struck down in every other state that has introduced it. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, oppose 6-week abortion bans, as do the majority of Texans. This bill is an egregious violation of health, safety, bodily autonomy, and basic human rights, and I urge you to reject it.

Patsy Shero

Self - retired secretary

San Angelo, TX

Please consider supporting this bill. Abortion is a terrible crime not only against the unborn babies but against the mothers and the fathers that have incredible emotional damage from going through with this procedure.

Natasha Rappazzo

Planned Parenthood Greater Texas

Arlington, TX

My name is natasha rappazzo and I oppose HB 1515. Abortion is a safe, normal, and legal medical procedure. If Texas decides to slash access to abortion by banning abortion after 6 week this will place an incredibly cruel burden on people who need an abortion. This will not stop abortion; people will travel to get an abortion or will seek unsafe methods to have an abortion. This bill will create a health crisis, Most people do not know that they are pregnant by 6-weeks. The time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas leaves abortion a non-decision. This is unconstitutional. HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and

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time consuming legal challenges. Why do you want this? Abortion is healthcare and we will fight for the right to unapologetic access forever. Please reject Hb 1515 and protect healthcare.

Laura Weaver

self, retired

Spring, TX

I urge you to oppose HB 1515. This bill is too far-reaching. It is an attempt to override the legal rights given to citizens by our Supreme Court. Please consider the negative ramifications this bill will have on your constituents.

DORA VANN

self Retired

SAN ANTONIO, TX

My name is Dora Vann and I oppose House Bill 1515. I am against attempted control of a my body. I am against taking away my personal rights of my body. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

Please reject this bill that would take my control of my body away from me.

Ashley Shahan

Self

Fulshear, TX

We need to protect the life of the unborn!!!! It's time Texas takes a stand to protect life and do all we can to protect the unborn!!

Ashley Shahan

Rex George

self

Flower Mound, TX

Support HB 3326 and allow it to be heard before the committee. This bill regulates abortion and doesn't end the murder of the pre-born. Historically, states will not defy federal courts and therefore heartbeat bills that have been passed have been stopped by federal courts. The State of Texas must defy Roe v. Wade which is not law. Texas has the right to end abortion and HB 3326 does that and will give our pre-born neighbors equal protection under the Constitution as all citizens of the US have the inherent right.

Tiffany Hofstetter

On behalf of my daughter, Payton Summons VS Cook Children's Medical Center

Grand Prairie, TX

Shouldn't Pro-life extend to children with disabilities that doctors say will not have "any quality of life" and decide to end medical care? Shouldn't Pro-life also support any family that wants a hospital to do any and everything to save their child? What about Payton Summons, a 9 year old that was treated like a death sentence to a huge hospital that failed her year after year. What about families that fight against hospitals for ending care because the doctors say there is nothing else they will do? Unborn children are not the only ones being MURDERED.

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Tamera Jennings

self

Haltom City, TX

I am asking that the House pass this bill protecting the life of a unborn child - especially considering there is a heartbeat. Please pay attention to the fact that this IS a child. Each person present with the ability to vote, was once in this exact same position in the life in utero. You were given the opportunity to make a difference WITH your life - obviously, you don't live, you don't make a difference. This child deserves every right that you have been given in taking your first breath. I implore you to please pass this. On another note, I am extremely distressed that that there is not a single Democrat willing to sponsor this life bill.

VANESSA LOZADA

self; healthcare administrator

Fort Worth, TX

My name is Vanessa Lozada, and I oppose House Bill 1515. Though I've never had an abortion, I have considered it. Getting pregnant while on birth control as a teenager, I made the choice to be a struggling single mom. Though I didn't choose to terminate, it's important that I had that choice. This bill is unconstitutional and creates unnecessary hurdles for those who DO make the choice to terminate their pregnancy. Medical providers cannot and should not be held accountable for properly caring for their patient, no matter what the decision may be. Bills like this will not stop abortions. It will only make those seeking one go underground, and take even bigger risks to access this healthcare. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Staci Mendelsohn, Mrs.

self

Plano, TX

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion. HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Linda L. Kenner

self and other sane responsible women

Richardson, TX

Women in Texas---NOT GOVERNMENT & LAWS MADE BY OTHERS--- must have the right of decision and action about their bodies & abortion at any time during pregnancy under any circumstances.

Mimi Barreras

self - teacher

MAGNOLIA, TX

I very sadly regret that I cannot be there on Wednesday to testify FOR the heartbeat bill. I testified before the Senate on this bill

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and sorely would like to be there to testify before you a well.

First, I would like to apologize for the Abolish Abortion crowd. The way they treat you is abominable and disrespectful and I STRONGLY disagree with their position and their approach to legislation and legislators. You do not deserve that level of abuse. I also do not agree with their desire to punish women who have had or are having abortions. This is not societally enforceable and honestly, not kind. There are some actions that are so wrong that having done them and living with it is punishment enough.

Heartbeat has been the gold standard in defining life for many years in the medical community. It is HIGH TIME our laws reflect this. In actuality, a child is a child upon conception, but we need to draw a line in the sand somewhere in the long process to overturn Roe. Unlike those who push for abolishment and only abolishment, culturally we must start taking a bite out of the elephant somewhere.

16 1/2 years ago I sat in a doctor's office about 11-12 weeks pregnant and my sweet doctor had to break the news to me that my baby no longer had a heartbeat. I thankfully had a very godly OB/GYN who amazingly pulled out a little pocket New Testament and reassured me that no only did God see and know this loss, but He was the Creator of that child, and that He valued that life. Now, we can find a heartbeat in utero as early as 21 days. But, even then, and long before, heartbeat was the standard of recognizing new life in the womb.

Passing such a bill does not put the a stop to the egregious and dangerous acts of distributing RU486 and early, early abortion, but it will halt the needless termination of women on the fence later in pregnancy and cause them pause. There is something about a heartbeat that inherently tells us that life is life. It is the initial standard by which we determine the end of life as well. It is high time that law catches up with science and that our state and nation do what is right, not what is convenient. Support for unplanned pregnancies exists in droves already. There are no longer any excuses, not that this was any excuse to begin with.

Life is life. Defend it. Defend it from the heartbeat and before.

Thank you for your hard work. Please send HB1515 to the floor for a vote.

Sincerely,  
Mimi Barreras

Lori Boyter

Self

Haltom City, TX

I whole heartedly support this heartbeat bill. I volunteer at a pregnancy crisis center and I get to see those babies at 6 weeks, 7 weeks, and on. They are very much alive.

Veronica Cordonnier

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Veronica Cordonnier and I oppose House Bill 1515.

I oppose this bill because it will hurt women in our state. Many of the women I help fund abortions for are past the 6 week mark by the time they even know they are pregnant and because of our state's inadequate access to reproductive healthcare clinics they often have to wait for an appointment and to receive funding to even pay for it. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. I oppose this bill because women I know and love have needed abortions and been able to receive whole health care and I do not want women further stigmatized, criminalized, and

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penalized for seeking healthcare for them and their families.

This quote by Soraya Chemaly sums it up perfectly, "It is a basic human decency to create a society in which motherhood is not wielded as a weapon against women, in which it is not coerced, forced, punishing, violent, & life threatening."

I urge you to reject this legislation which will hurt women and women's rights in our state.

Michelle Tesch

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

Please, at the very least, support legislation that prohibits abortions after a heartbeat is detected!

Theresa Garza, Ms.

self - clerk

San Antonio, TX

Until all women have equal, unfettered, guaranteed access to well-paying jobs, monetary support from the biological father of their child, good schools for the child, unlimited safe childcare, protection from abusive partners, easily accessible 24 hour safe transportation, and quality healthcare for themselves and their children: no person who is not the pregnant woman should have any say in her personal decision to have a child or terminate a pregnancy. Period. Until all other support systems are in place & guaranteed, safe abortion access is essential.

Rhonda Denman, Mrs.

Self

Waxahachie, TX

Far too many other states have taken the lead on this bill for their states. I am shocked that Texas is behind on this. We have got to be bold in taking a stand for the most innocent who have no voice! Come on Texas!

Patrice Peterson

A concerned citizen of Texas

Houston, TX

Please pass this bill. You are saving babies lives in the image of God. You shall not murder! Please keep Texas where God can protect and bless us again

Emily Witt

self

Austin, TX

My name is Emily Witt and I oppose HB 1515.

This bill is unconstitutional as it creates an undue burden for women who have a constitutional right to reproductive health services, such as abortion. Pregnancy is typically undetectable at 6 weeks, and a heartbeat does not make cells conscious or able to feel pain.

This law is not being proposed to protect anyone: not women, and certainly not the children who will be born to caregivers who don't have the resources to physically and emotionally care for a child. Republicans do not value life or have any interest in

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providing resources to women and children past pregnancy. Forcing this only creates a future trauma for the child they are forcing a woman to carry.

Will the authors of this bill be there for this child if they enter the child welfare system? Will you foster them? Will you adopt them? Will you pay for their therapy? When they commit crimes to obtain necessary resources that are always available to your children because you were able to decide you were ready for a child and able to prepare, will you put these children in jail or prison to add to the pipeline of people who have experienced immense trauma that we incarcerate in the US?

Women deserve to be the architects of our futures, and since it is supposedly the fetus that these laws are created for, the fetus you are forcing to term deserves to be raised by someone who decided they have the resources for a child. When we can control our reproductive futures, we end generational trauma and poverty cycles. Republicans are choosing to only create more trauma and pain for people they will never meet, and will certainly never help.

Danna Halff

self

San Antonio, TX

Please vote against this bill. A heartbeat detection is often the first sign a woman realizes she is pregnant. Do not punish women for making determining her own future.

Eric D.

Self, investor

Austin, TX

My name is Eric and I oppose HB 1515.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Access to safe medical services of any kind, including abortion, are critical to the health of our community.

This frivolous bill wastes the precious time of the Texas Legislature, please reject it and move on to more important matters that can help all Texans.

Thank you.

Blake Dymond

Self

Farmersville, TX

Thank you for your time. I believe HB 1515 is paramount to the effort of saving innocent life. Once a heartbeat is detected, there is no medical question that a human life now exists. This tiny person doesn't have a legal name or social security number yet, but they are just as much alive as the new born babies in the nursery. Knowingly taking that life, after hearing and confirming the heartbeat should be a crime. Knowingly stopping the heart and life of a human being is illegal outside of the womb, so why is it okay to stop the heartbeat of a human before their life in this amazing world even begins.

Lucie Jenkins

San Angelo Christian Academy

San Angelo, TX

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I do not believe abortion should be allowed prior or after hearing the child's heartbeat. I do believe that every mother should listen to their child's heartbeat if abortion continues to be legal, in hopes of changing the mother's mind. Abortion is murder. I don't even know why this is a question. A thief is arrested and put on trial, yet a mother is allowed to murder her own child. Why is this even a question?

Linda Lee Kenner

SELF

Richardson, TX

Texas women not the state have the right of personal decision about abortion as wanted, needed and as private civil right of action

Mindy Lusk

Self - teacher

San Angelo, TX

Please protect the rights of all humans, even those who aren't yet born.

Elisa Gonzalez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

- HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

It creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

Shawn Troxell, Ms.

Self

New Braunfels, TX

To whomever reads this:

I am very much against HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218 and HB 3760. My representative, knows my opinion. He believes, like the supporters of these bills, that their religious beliefs should be forced upon all of us.

They believe life begins at conception. Science proves it does not.

Therefore, these bills cannot become laws because they infringe upon my rights. There can be no using religion to make a law. Don't you agree?

In denying women the right to choose you are condemning many of us to a harder life, with more obstacles, often shamed as a single mother, unable to find a good paying job and hours that work while also raising a child.

It seems to me that you simply don't care about us.

What I do to my body is not your choice.

NOT your choice.

The choice is mine.

You must not allow these bills up for discussion, much less a vote. Too many men, too many religious men, too many white old religious men simply cannot be allowed to debate a woman's right to choose.

I'm not alone in my anger over these bills.

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So I will be watching what's happening and sharing with my family, friends, and former students.

Georgia Keysor

self - retired

Austin, TX

I oppose the anti-choice bills that are scheduled for a hearing in the House Public Health Committee this Wednesday, April 7th. These bills take freedoms away from Texans and would allow lawsuits against providers and individual people. If abortion is essentially outlawed, it will lead to many unnecessary deaths in this state, which is incredible considering our stellar record of maternal mortality. This mismanaged state's bungled response to COVID has killed over 50,000 Texans to date. Our vaccination program is among the two or three worst in the nation. And you can't even keep the lights on. I oppose House Bills 1280, 1515, 2313, 2337, 3218, and 3760 because I think medical decisions of this nature should be between a woman, her family, her pastor and her physician. I do not understand why you think a politician or a bureaucrat needs to be part of that discussion.

Adrienne Abrahamson

self (tutor)

Roanoke, TX

My name is Adrienne Abrahamson and I oppose House Bill 1515. I am very concerned that time and effort continues to be spent on attempting to ban and/or restrict abortion. Instead, I believe legislators should be spending resources on addressing current emergencies and serious issues that affect so many living Texans. Abortion is healthcare, and our lawmakers should be expanding access to healthcare, not restricting it further. I strongly oppose House Bill 1515, as it is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, since most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. This bill also creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion. This bill is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. The Texas House needs to focus on the real crises facing Texans like access to health care, responding to COVID-19, maternal mortality, and the energy crisis, not Dan Patrick's political agenda.

Jennifer Bezner

self

Smithville, TX

**YES! Pass this bill! A heartbeat is a sign of life! We can no longer try to ignore the lives of these babies! Pass this Bill!**

Betty Lawson

Self Retired

Houston, TX

Please sign on to this bill or the very least support it.

Thank you.

Rickey Allen

Myself. Private citizen who votes

New Baden, TX

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No organization, group, person or medical facility should have the right to stop the beating heart of an unborn child. It is a living being if it has a heart beat and to end it's life is murder

Sara Groti, Mrs

Self /stay at home mom

San Angelo, TX

When I got pregnant with my oldest daughter, my husband and I were not yet married. We were terrified of telling our parents and we were scared of how we would provide for the baby. I was 21, in college. And ny now husband was 23 and working as a mechanic. I believe a lot of women find themselves in this situation. But I really want to encourage them not to look to abortion as a solution to a problem. Children, planned or "unplanned" are a blessing. Abortion is not a solution, and it is permanent. You can take your baby's life, but you can't erase the memory of that little life growing inside of you. The first time my husband and I heard our baby's heartbeat we KNEW this was a child. Our child. And as scared as we were, we were now parents. We were meant to protect that little baby with everything that we have. Eventually my husband and I did tell our parents, it was hard, but oh how they love that baby girl now. We had help from our families and our church in providing the basics for our baby. We found out a baby does not need as much as we thought. Today that little girl is 4 years old, she is bright, funny and so creative! What was once so scary to us, became our biggest blessing.  
I beg young moms not to let fear have a say in your baby's life.

Tricia Menikos

Self

Corsicana, TX

Please pass this bill affirming babies unborn deserve to have life.

Brandy Chambers

Perkins Coie

GARLAND, TX

I am a mother. I am an employee. I am a wife. I decided to become a mother well after I fell in love with my husband and married. I decided to become a mother when we could financially handle another mouth to feed and body to clothe. I decided to become a mother when I knew I was ready to be a mother. This was MY decision. I am a grown adult who should be the only one making decisions about my body, my health, and my readiness to be a mother. This should NOT be the power of the state. This bill is gross overreach of the state's power over women. I firmly oppose such a bill and am embarrassed that Texas legislators continue to pursue the enslavement of women by denying them health care and autonomy to make life changing decisions without government interference.

Maureen Powers

retired

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill for the reason that it is in derogation of constitutional law.

Jesus Archuleta

Jesus Christ

Big Spring, TX

I couldn't be there to speak tomorrow so thank you for the opportunity to send my message via the internet. For 48 years we have

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allowed the murder of the unborn and today we continue to allow for it. We must ask ourselves what are doing in regards to abortion, are we try to end abortion or are we just going to continue to regulate it. All of these pro-life bills but forward do nothing to end the Holocaust of the unborn and continue to prove that a Republican dominant house goal is to never end abortion but to chip away at the majority of it so they seem like heroes. We are no longer going to tolerate that line of thinking. We demand abolition and we demand it now. You may claim to be pro-life but your actions have proven over and over again that you are not. The only bill that will end abortion immediately in the state of Texas is HB 3326. It provides the necessary equal protection from the conception that the unborn baby deserves. What will you do to end abortion in the state of Texas? Why won't you give HB3326 a hearing? Why do you continue to allow this Holocaust to take place? You might not answer me on this issue but you will have to answer to God. He will hold you accountable for what you have allowed to happen and continue to happen. I pray you to end this. God has placed you in your positions for a reason, to punish evil and to reward those who do good. The longer you allow for child sacrifice to continue the longer your asking for God's wrath to abide on you. 55,000 unborn babies yearly demand that they get the justice and protection they deserve, when will you give it to them?

madeleine Echols

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Madeleine Echols and I appose HB 1515. This bill is unconstitutional, dangerous and government overreach. Many women do not even know they are pregnant at 6 weeks. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. Access to abortion should be available to ensure the safety of women. This bill will put undue stress on women and families. Frankly, this is unamerican and untexan.

Amanda Stoffels

self - educator

Keller, TX

Please continue to work towards banning all abortions in Texas. The act of abortion is murder of innocent lives.

Joshua Higgins

self, graphic designer

Houston, TX

My name is Josh Higgins and I oppose HB1515. I believe this is a dangerous bill that infringes on personal freedoms. Medical experts have opposed 6-week abortion bans and similar bills have been ruled unconstitutional and have been struck down in every state where they were passed.

Lauren Fazio

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Lauren Fazio, and I oppose House Bill 1515. As a proud Texan and US adult citizen, I value the ability to make choices related to my own body and my own family planning. We in Texas value the ability to make choices that benefit our households and strongly oppose the government from developing policy that takes away our personal freedoms and choice. In the same way we value private businesses to regulate themselves, we as people should be able to regulate our present and futures. The consequences of this proposed bill would directly impact women's lives, increase death in women (in attempts to make the best choices they can for themselves and their families left to manage in unsafe ways), and disproportionately impact women of color across Texas. Additionally, our Texas child welfare system is already overtaxed - I know this first hand as a professional clinician within this field. We should invest in proactive work to strengthen families, allow women to earn more at their jobs, and INCREASE access to women's healthcare, not reduce it. Anti-choice legislation has NO place in Texans' lives and directly violates our local values and constitution. I strongly urge you all to reject this bill.

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Sonya Roberts

Self (Occupation: Manager)

Austin, TX

My name is Sonya Roberts, and I oppose House Bill 1515. I find this bill extremely concerning, as it would effectively ban abortion before most women even know they are pregnant. This is an extreme attack on choice, and the house legislature should not be legislating women's decisions about their own health and that of their families. Those that are personally against abortion should simply elect not to have their own as opposed to attempting to control the bodies and family planning of others. This bill is unconstitutional, and will have particularly detrimental effects on women of color and from low-income communities (along with their doctors and support system). Again, I strongly urge you to reject this legislation.

Karen Wells

Self

Houston, TX

This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Carly Hudson, Mrs

Self

Kingwood, TX

Abortion is healthcare. I oppose any legislation that takes away my right to a safe and legal abortion.

Sarah McWilliam

PP TX Votes

Pflugerville, TX

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Amy Hunt

self, marketing consultant

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because Texas women should be able to make this decision on her own without the interference of the government. Abortion isn't an easy decision, but women should have the right to a safe, legal abortion if they need one.

Katie Palin

self, cashier

Arlington, TX

Every person has the right to access the healthcare that they need. Abortion is healthcare and the government has no place to try to legislate people's bodies.

Khadija Hassan, Ms.

n/a

Georgetown, TX

Abortion is a safe medical decision and an essential part of healthcare. The decision needs to be between the pregnant individual and the healthcare provider/ physician. Do not pass this bill.

Brenda Mondragon

self/unemployed

HOUSTON, TX

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Laura Gorsky

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self

Austin, TX

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Andrew Perretta

N/A

Schertz, TX

Hello. My name is Andrew Perretta. I'm a voting constituent in Guadalupe County. I oppose HB 1515. Abortion is health care and is fully legal in the United States. I support a pregnant person's right to choose when they want to start a family. As a Texas taxpayer, I don't want public funds used to defend these unconstitutional bills in federal courts.

Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Madelyn Morneault

self

Austin, TX

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Katie O'leary

Self

irving, TX

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HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Piper Madland

Self

HOUSTON, TX

I strongly oppose this unconstitutional bill. It is a waste of time and Texans' money since similar bills have been struck down in every state where they were passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

Lucy Wimmer

Self

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Lucy Wimmer and I am opposing HB 1515.

This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Alyssa Schafer

Self, Student

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

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My name is Alyssa Schafer and I am currently a student pursuing my Master of Social Work degree. I am writing today to express my opposition with Texas HB 1515. While there exists a myriad of impacts correlated to reproductive rights, scholarly research significantly emphasizes deleterious health related impacts on both the mother, and child when reproductive rights are restricted. Evidence suggests an association with unintended pregnancies that progress until delivery and (a) higher risks of low birth weight and preterm birth, (b) long-term physical health consequences and paucities in development, and (c) adverse maternal outcomes, specifically related to health, poverty, and intimate partner violence (Wallace et al., 2017).

Further research has suggested that women residing in states with the least restrictive reproductive rights, experience greater gender equality, and lower rates of unintended pregnancy and intimate partner violence (Wallace et al., 2017).

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

This legislation is harmful to Texans, and I implore you to reject HB 1515.

Amber Donley

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Amber Donley, and I oppose House Bill 1515. Abortion rights are women's rights and should be left to the decision of the woman and her doctor!

This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

I encourage you to oppose this bill and it's a direct attack on medical providers who have are offering safe medical procedures to women in need!

Barbara Garbacz

Self - retired

Dallas, TX

My name is Barbara and I oppose HB 1515. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

DANIEL WALKER

Self, Health Administrator

San Antonio, TX

I am OPPOSED to any bill that restricts abortion services. Abortion should be safe and LEGAL. Restricting abortion services simply causes women to seek illegal and unsafe abortions.

Marie LeBlanc

self, program director

Austin, TX

My name is Marie LeBlanc and I opposed House Bill HB 1515. As a working, independent woman, it's important to me that I know I can control my reproductive journey and personal health. Having access to safe, legal abortion is part of that peace of mind. This bill would probably make it impossible for me to access abortion services if I needed them, given how restrictive it is. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. I care about all Texas women accessing the health care and abortion care they need because women should be in charge of their own bodies and get to make the choice about when and how to become a parent. I oppose this bill because it effectively makes it nearly impossible for most women to chose abortion services if they need them.

Berenice Craig

self

Austin, TX

This devastating bill removes access to abortion at a time before most women are even aware of being pregnant, and thus thrusts a woman directly into poverty. This is anti-woman legislation and not only discriminates against women, but is a slap in the face to citizens who pride themselves on being able to choose paths for their own lives. This is an ANTI-FREEDOM bill.

Noah Koon, Dr

Self - OBGYN Physician

Dallas, TX

From a Dallas physician and advocate for patients.

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

shamyra coleman

Planned Parenthood of Texas

shiner, TX

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Veronica Ramos

Self, Social Worker and Health Equity Designer

HOUSTON, TX

My name is Veronica Ramos and I oppose House Bill 1515.

Abortion access is important to me because I am a survivor of rape. I was able to terminate a pregnancy that was completely against my will. Without safe and accessible abortion services in Texas, I would have taken my life after that traumatic incident. I oppose this bill and hope that you will also oppose this bill and help protect others who find themselves in a desperate time of need.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time-consuming legal challenges. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can’t even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy

Your job is to protect the rights, health, and freedoms of citizens of Texas. This includes allowing people to choose what is best for their own lives and bodies, approving this bill would go completely against that. I urge you to say NO to HB 1515.

Jeanette Cacciola

Self. Human Resources professional

Leander, TX

Any Bill that seeks to prevent a woman’s access to a legal and safe abortion or that seeks to impose civil or criminal penalties is a travesty. Roe v.Wade makes this medical procedure legal in our nation. Those seeking to take away the right of any woman to

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make decisions about her own body, many times with her husband or partner, when faced with an unbearably crushing situation of her own life being at risk or the fetus being unable to live outside the womb, are anything but “pro life”. This bill is anti woman, anti privacy, and often anti health care. Stay out of the deeply private affairs of a woman and her doctor.

Ollie Miles

self

Sugar Land, TX

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Maureen Tomasino

self

San Antnoio, TX

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Michael Youngquist

Self

Austin, TX

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Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Forcing someone to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term is dangerous to both their mental and physical health. Abortion is healthcare.

Katie Ramsey, Mrs.

Myself

Denton, TX

Thank you.

Daniel Schafer

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX

My name is Daniel Schafer. I am writing today to express my opposition with Texas HB 1515. While there exists a myriad of impacts correlated to reproductive rights, scholarly research significantly emphasizes deleterious health related impacts on both the mother, and child when reproductive rights are restricted. Evidence suggests an association with unintended pregnancies that progress until delivery and (a) higher risks of low birth weight and preterm birth, (b) long-term physical health consequences and paucities in development, and (c) adverse maternal outcomes, specifically related to health, poverty, and intimate partner violence (Wallace et al., 2017).

Further research has suggested that women residing in states with the least restrictive reproductive rights, experience greater gender equality, and lower rates of unintended pregnancy and intimate partner violence (Wallace et al., 2017).

This legislation is harmful to Texans, and I implore you to reject HB 1515.

Nicole Velez Agosto, Dr.

self

McAllen, TX

My name is Nicole Velez Agosto and I personally oppose this bill. Abortion rights are public health and public safety combined. A women should be able to make the decision to terminate a pregnancy based on her own needs and not by a medical professional. If we don't provide legal and safe ways to do abortions, they will continue to happen without proper care and more damage and harm will be done. Please reject this dangerous bill.

Katherine Speights, Mrs

Self Commissary worker at Clemens TDCJ Prison

Brazoria, TX

I have miscarried 4 babies. The destruction of my heart was inconceivable. It still haunts me. To choose to murder an unborn child no matter at what stage of the pregnancy is unconscionable. There are many couples looking for a child who can't conceive. Vote no to murder and yes to life at conception.

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Angelique and Marc Van Bavel

self

Austin, TX

Abortion is an important element of women's rights because women are more affected by the abortion debate than men, both individually (if they are considering an abortion) and as a gender.

If abortion rights are denied, then a constraint is imposed on women's freedom to act in a way that is of great importance to them, both for its own sake and for the sake of their achievement of equality;

Women need the right to abortion in order to have the same freedoms as men. Women have a moral right to decide what to do with their bodies. The right to abortion is vital for gender equality.

Women must have full rights over their own bodies (including the right to decide whether or not to carry a fetus to birth).

Every woman should be able to decide for herself, if and when to start a family. Women need free access to abortion in order to achieve full political, social, and economic equality with men.

Reproductive freedom is a woman's right.

Banning abortion puts women at risk by forcing them to use illegal abortionists.

It is a constitutional right of women to legally obtain an abortion.

As your Texas constituents we are asking you to oppose the below abortion related bills:

Adrienne Nisbet

self/ teacher

San Antonio, TX

My name is Adrienne Nisbet and I oppose House Bill 1515. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. This is an unconstitutional bill that I strongly oppose. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Mark Reeve

My self

Mountain Home, TX

Stop and consider HB 3326 and end abortion in Texas NOW

Angelique and Marc Van Bavel

self

Austin, TX

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Banning abortion puts women at risk by forcing them to use illegal abortionists.

It is a constitutional right of women to legally obtain an abortion.

As your Texas constituents we are asking you to oppose the below abortion related bills:

HB 1280 relates to prohibition of abortion; providing a civil penalty; creating a criminal offense.

HB 1515 relates to abortion, including abortions after detection of an unborn child's heartbeat; authorizing a private civil right of action.

HB 2313 relates to a required resource access assistance offer before an abortion is performed.

HB 2337 that relates to the regulation of drug-induced abortion procedures, providers, and facilities; providing criminal penalties.

HB 2676 relates to the creation and optional filing of a record of life for an unborn child and the use of a certificate of stillbirth; authorizing fees.

HB 3218 relates to the regulation of abortion, including information regarding perinatal palliative care and prohibiting discriminatory abortions; authorizing disciplinary action; providing a civil remedy; creating a criminal offense.

HB3760 relates to information regarding perinatal palliative care, regulation of abortion, and the availability of certain defenses to prosecution for homicide and assault offenses; providing an administrative penalty; creating criminal offenses.

Heather Benedetto

Self/ public school teacher

Richardson, TX

The government should not regulate a woman's choice to an abortion. This creates a dangerous precedent as well as the occasion to have an abortion outside of the medical establishment.

Jamie Burciaga, Mrs.

self

Conroe, TX

Hi there, I'm writing to remind the committee that every single life is precious, has been knit together in their mother's womb by our almighty God and is fearfully and wonderfully made. I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas, altogether.

Jennifer Duffy

Self

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Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because abortion should be a personal decision by women, not the government. Making abortion illegal increases the risks that women will have abortions not performed by medical professionals or try do it themselves.

Sabina Madland

self, student

Houston, TX

My name is Sabina Madland and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill is extreme, dangerous, and UNCONSTITUTIONAL. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Meggin Kaufman

Self/Finance

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because abortion should be a personal decision by women, not the government. Making abortion illegal increases the risk that women will have abortions not performed by medical professionals or try to do it themselves.

Mitchell Nisbet

Self, biologist

San Antonio, TX

Hi my name is Mitch Nisbet and I oppose HB 1515 because I believe this is an unconstitutional bill and goes against what has been laid out as precedent by the Supreme Court of the United States.

Noel Madland

Self, student

Houston, TX

HB 1515 creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion.

Jennifer Haar

self/Realtor

Katy, TX

Over 40 years ago I and my then boyfriend, now husband, aborted our first child. I was told that the fetus was about 5 or 6 weeks old. The abortion provider and aides were very kind and solicitous as best I remember, but not very informative. I was woefully ignorant about the stages of pregnancy and I am deeply ashamed at how very self-centered I was. My main concern was not about how to nurture this baby but how disappointed my parents would be in me. My reputation meant more to me than the life within me. We take full responsibility for the decision we made that ended the life of our child, but we regret it daily. Thankfully, I know I am forgiven in Christ and I know I will see my child one day, but the deep sorrow remains. My most poignant memory of that time is weeping on the cold bathroom floor when I got back to my apartment, rocking back and forth, asking myself "What have I done?" If abortion after a fetal heartbeat had been unavailable to me as a "choice," my child would

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be alive. I would have four children on this earth, not three. There is no going back, but there can be going forward for Texas. Let's be a state that cherishes life, of the child and of the mother. Life is life and is precious at any stage. When abortion was first allowed by the Supreme Court, many were worried that the procedure would be a form of birth control. That MUST stop. Birth Control is cheap. Life is not. I urge you all to be brave and do the righteous thing - protect the unborn from abortion.

Evelin Garcia

self

Kyle, TX

My name is Evelin Garcia, and I oppose House Bill 1515.

As a woman of color, I find it appalling that Gov. Greg Abbott is more concerned with passing anti-abortion bills that make it harder for me to get an abortion than keeping Texas safe and vaccinated against COVID-19. I have the right to an abortion, and any legislation that attempts to limit access or punish anyone who provides this health care service to me is a violation of my rights.

Abortion access is a form of health care, and limiting access to it is a violation of my rights!

I oppose this bill and urge the Texas Legislature to reject this legislation.

Elizabeth Guess

Self

Frisco, TX

Taking the life of another is murder. All abortion is murder as it is the taking of another human life. Murder is already a law, and therefore should apply to the human lives inside the womb. It is past time we correct this egregious offense against our own human race. A nation cannot stand if it we allow this evil to remain a "lawful" activity without consequence. This genocide has removed whole generations of people and commit the ultimate sentence of death against our most innocent, vulnerable, precious, and voiceless among us, our children in the womb. I believe the doctors or whosoever commits that actually murder of the innocent life in the womb is the one deserving of punishment. No longer can we allow wicked practice to continue. Be the brave and courageous individuals who God has granted you temporary power in the position you hold to use to end these atrocities. For when you stand before the Creator of the Universe may He will know you acted on behalf of the truly weak, defenseless, and powerless. The time is now to do what should have been corrected long ago, end the greatest evil the world has ever known.

Grace Cox

Self

Duncanville, TX

A heart beat signifies life. It is a life that is dependent on its mother, but has the right to live. I felt my baby kick at 9 weeks gestation( because it was my 2nd and the positioning of my uterus) and to have an abortion would have been choosing to end a life. A life with a heart beat.

Amanda Bennett

Self; Project manager

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1515, and I urge the committee to vote against HB 1515. This bill would ban abortion before most people know they are pregnant, and will allow frivolous lawsuits against anyone who helps anyone get an abortion, by anyone who disagrees with someone's decision to get an abortion. Other states have passed bans similar to the abortion ban in HB 1515, and none have gone into effect. All of them have created lengthy legal battles. Just because HB 1515 provides a private civil right of action does not

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make it any different. The Supreme Court has decided that no one can have a veto over anyone else's right to an abortion. This bill is ridiculous, cruel, and a waste of time and money. Even if it were constitutional, it wouldn't stop abortions. People will always find a way to exercise autonomy over their bodies.

Brian Rogers

self, computer programmer

Farmers Branch, TX

I oppose HB 1515 because abortion should be a woman's personal decision, not the government's. Making abortion illegal increases the risks that women will have abortions not performed by medical professionals or try do it themselves.

Elizabeth Davison

Self

Weatherford, TX

I am against HB1515. It is an unrighteous decree that does not provide equal protection under the law for ALL preborn children. Most abortions occur prior to 10 weeks. A heartbeat is only detected via a vaginal ultrasound prior to that point. This is also unenforceable, as we are trusting men and women who have a monetary interest to be honest about a heartbeat. They lie.

Elizabeth Powell, M. MFT

Self- mental health professional

Abilene, TX

As a mental health professional I am appalled that this unconstitutional bill is even discussed. This will result in more unsafe abortions and death. The blood will be on the hands of anyone who voted in favor of this bill. Restricting legal abortion does not stop abortions, it stops safe abortions. More sex education and access to birth control are proven to reduce abortion rates and these are the strategies we should be using.

Elba Wilson

Myself

Round Rock, TX

Vote against this. Pregnancies vary from woman to woman. Do not pass a blanket across the board Bill prohibiting abortion.

Leslie Eames Pierce

Self, educator

Richardson, TX

I oppose this bill because abortion should be a personal decision by the pregnant woman , not the government. Making abortion illegal increases the risks that women will have abortions not performed by medical professionals or try do it themselves. Placing restrictions on a group of people is oppressive. Denying an entire sex of people the freedom to dictate decisions of their own body is sexist. Thank you

Zara Zamora, Ms.

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Zara Zamora and I oppose House Bill HB-1515, HB 1280, Hb 2337/Sb 394, HB 2313/ SB 802, HB 3218/SB 1173, and HV 3760/ SB 1647.

I oppose this bill because no person should have to raise a child they can't care for, but all children require parents. In the adoption system there are tons of kids who will never have a family, statistically it is impossible. Many of these bills are unsafe for the child and parent, as well as unconstitutional. I care about abortion access because I actually care about the kids in our country, forcing someone to give birth isn't going to protect them. Please reject these bills, all kids deserve parents if you enforce this bill they won't have anybody.

Charlotte Fiehn

Self

Cypress, TX

Attempting to limit abortion rights of women through the imposition of this restriction will directly harm the well-being and undermine the autonomy of women as regards their reproductive rights. A fetus at six weeks is not recognizable as an "unborn child." The language of the bill is inflammatory and prioritizing the life, wellbeing, and personal autonomy of women through this restriction is a violation of a woman's fundamental human rights and constitutional rights as a citizen of the United States.

Samantha Cruz

self - student

San Antonio, TX

my name is Samantha Cruz and i oppose bill HB 1515. This bill does not give child bearing persons the opportunity to discover that they're even pregnant. In most cases, child bearing people don't find out that they're pregnant until they're 6 weeks, passing this bill would force them to give birth to a child they may not be able to provide for. Abortion access is extremely important for everyone because it prevents over population, it also allows people to have control over their own body. Abortion access for everyone is extremely important because it reduces the amount of kids suffering in foster care or orphanages and it potentially reduces the amount of children that are neglected in a home that they weren't welcomed in. Rejecting this legislation would be a step closer to bringing peace into this world, people should be allowed to do what they please to their bodies. Rejecting this house bill can create a relief for people that are afraid of being forced to bring a baby into this world even though they're not ready.

Cyral Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Texans deserve their legal right to full reproductive health care. Nobody should face fear, stigma, or unnecessary barriers when seeking out reproductive healthcare, including abortion care. Vote no!

Doc Greene

RightSideOfTheMic

Katy, TX

It is long past time to quit killing baby Texans. Life begins at conception and can begin at no other time. Even in cases of Rape and Incest, both being very low probability, it is not the Baby's fault. The Baby doesn't get a vote. Its Ludicrous to continue this barbarity. Of course IF Republicans were REALLY prolife this would have ended 20 years ago. I see you are, and so does Yeshua the Mighty GOD in CHRIST

Brett Nichols

Self, network engineer

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Arlington, TX

Although I respect the motivation behind this bill, “ “heartbeat bills” such as this will continue to be struck down as they have already been (almost a dozen times so far). Even if it were to pass and endure challenge, the result would be more regulation of abortion, not its elimination.

Instead, we need to be considering bills like HB 3326 which simply eliminate the exception clause that grants legal immunity from any punitive action, under Texas statute, to those who are by legal definition, committing criminal homicide against unborn individuals.

Thank you for your consideration of these thoughts as the legislative session moves forward.

Blair Wallace, Policy & Advocacy Strategist

ACLU of Texas

Houston, TX

Written Testimony Against House Bill 1515 by:

Blair Wallace

Policy & Advocacy Strategist

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

Dear Chairwoman and Members of the Public Health Committee:

HB 1515 is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that subverts the case and controversy requirement of the Texas Constitution and upends the judiciary’s check on the legislature. It does this by creating a civil cause of action that would allow anyone in the state of Texas -- regardless of whether they are personally injured or even connected to the patient or provider -- to sue an abortion provider or anyone who, possibly without knowing, helped a person get an abortion in suspected violation of the law.

HB 1515 would ban abortions when a cardiac activity is detectable in a fetus, which typically is around 6-weeks gestation -- before most people know they are pregnant. It is rare for an abortion to happen at or before 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure, and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. This proposal creates a private cause of action as an enforcement mechanism that allows any non-governmental person to sue a provider who provides abortions, or any person who helps, a person obtain an abortion banned by this proposal. By HB 1515’s own terms, a person who helps someone obtain an abortion does not even need to know their actions resulted in such assistance. The proposal allows a court to impose at least \$10,000 in damages and does not permit a person wrongfully or frivolously sued to recuperate their costs.

HB 1515 Unquestionably Tramples the Right to an Abortion

SB8 is blatantly unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it has been passed into law. HB 1515 is clearly unconstitutional and is in direct conflict with the 45 years of Supreme Court jurisprudence since Roe v. Wade that has continuously and systematically upheld the right to abortion care pre-viability. Similar measures in other states have led to costly litigation and ultimately been struck down or blocked by courts. If passed, this law will likely be challenged and struck down as unconstitutional, while Texas spends potentially millions of dollars to defend the unconstitutional law -- as it did in Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt.

HB 1515 Establishes Civil Liability for People Who Do Not Intend or Even Know Their Actions Ran Afoul of the Proposal

Permitting the Courts to be Used as an Instrument of Harassment

Also concerning is the ability, under this proposal, for the private cause of action to be used as an instrument of harassment. By permitting anyone to sue, regardless of whether they are injured, this law would allow anti-abortion advocates to harass doctors, abortion funds, and loved ones of abortion patients with frivolous

Briana Martinez

Self, student

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Alamo, TX

My name is Briana Martinez and I oppose House Bill 1515.

Denying Texan families the right to decide whether they want to carry a pregnancy to full term is nearly inhuman. This forces people to decide between carrying a pregnancy to full term that they don't want and enduring the many possible scenarios that affect their well being and seeking out illegal, unsafe abortions that could kill the pregnant person, therefore also terminating the pregnancy. If you care about Texans, you will defend a person's right to safe access to abortions.

Beverly Gavenda, Ms

Self-Retired RN

Austin, TX

I am adamantly opposed to HB 1515 and I am ashamed of anyone who believes this is the way to treat their fellow women here on the Earth.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. Think carefully before even giving this bill any consideration. This bill does not help any Texan in any way. Vote against it.

Lisa Kamerer, Mrs

Self

Woodlands, TX

Every life deserves a chance. A heartbeat is clear evidence that an unborn is alive, even without sound on a ultrasound will reveal a life exists. I strongly support this bill.

Sandra Barnes

Texas citizen

Quinlan, TX

Stop abortion, there is no right time to kill a baby.

Deborah Lucas, Mrs.

self

College Station, TX

This bill needs to become law. With detection of an unborn child's heartbeat, a life has begun. This life was created by God and to stop that heartbeat is murder. Please make this bill into law to stop abortion.

Jocelyn Rigel

Self

Garland, TX

My name is Jocelyn Rigel and I oppose House Bill 1515.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

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Additionally, HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive, time consuming legal challenges, that puts our government between private citizens their doctors and costs uninvolved taxpayers to pay the price for it. Please oppose HB 1515.

Alisa Sierra  
self student  
El paso, TX

My name is Alisa Sierra and I am opposing the 6 anti abortion bills. HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218, HB 3760. I am opposing these bills because it would endanger those who are not ready to have a baby and taking away their right to choose. 6 weeks is way too short of a window to allow abortions. A fetus is not a baby and pregnancy will harm the pregnant persons body. It may even endanger their life.

Lisa Black  
Self-retired  
Allen, TX

Although I consider myself pro life, I have some concerns regarding the “heartbeat bill”. I support my local crisis pregnancy center and I have a “choose life” license plate on my car. I assume this is the bill that seeks to outlaw abortions after six weeks gestation, when a heartbeat can be detected. I am concerned that a woman who finds out that she is pregnant at that early stage will be inclined to rush into having an abortion while she still can. If she knows she has some time, she can go to a crisis pregnancy center and be able to have a sonogram. A sonogram done at 4 to 6 weeks will not have the impact that one done later will, when she can see her baby moving and kicking. She can see more of the baby’s features. I get a prayer list every week from the crisis pregnancy enter and there are always stories of abortion minded women who chose life after counseling and a sonogram. Laws can be good, but I believe that women need to have a heart change toward abortion and it eventually becomes a choice that a woman doesn’t want to make. Thank you.

Joselin Bazaldua  
Self hotel server  
Forest Hill, TX

I believe that woman have the right to choose whether they should bare a child. Things happen to women and they should not be forced to have a child. There is better things that you could be doing for women, such as educating them while they are young and providing them with secure methods of birth control. Or maybe educating men and creating a birth control for them instead of having the blame and consequences on only the woman.

Adam Rigel  
Self  
Garland, TX

My name is Adam Rigel and I oppose House Bill 1515. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can’t even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

Additionally, HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive, time consuming legal challenges, that puts our government between private citizens their doctors and requires uninvolved Texas taxpayers to pay the

price for it. Please oppose HB 1515.

Betty Jones

Abolish Abortion Texas

Temple, TX

I am for completely Abolishing Abortions in Texas. Asking the Texas House Public Health Committee to stop the heartbeat bill that will only end up being unenforceable like in the other 11+ states that have passed it, along other problems with it. We've had 48 years of failures of pro-life bills like that. We want abortions now to stop the murder of more than 155 babies a day. Thank you.

Guy McCord

Supporter of Texas Right to Lifr

Irving, TX

I entirely endorse TRTL position on this bill

Joseph Barker

Self

Dallas, TX

It's a fetus, not an unborn child. This is not the call of the government.

Craig Barnthson

Self

Krum, TX

I urge you to replace HB 1515 on the agenda with HB 3326 which will abolish abortion in this great state. Act decisively to ensure that the lives of ALL Texans have equal protection under the law. Abortion is nothing more than the murder of the most defenseless among us and an abomination in the sight of God. Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Barbara Hollyfield

Myself and Christ Jesus

Silsbee, TX

Distinguished legislators,

While all legislation intended to slow or discourage abortion may be commendable, what we need is to STOP abortion. We are killing babies as a form of birth control!! We are detestable and deplorable before God. He cannot bless America again as long as we endorse, condone, and legalize murder of the unborn. Please come together and immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

Thank you, Barbara Hollyfield

Andre Lemke, Mrs.

Self

San Marcos, TX

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At the age of 19 I had an abortion without knowing the truth - that I was stopping a beating heart. Later, when I had the maturity to understand what I had done and the effect it had on my life I realize what a crime it is that it is legal to kill an unborn child. The consequences have been dire - to carry this around on my conscience every day. Those who promote this law should have to watch and be accountable for what they are promoting. They bear the consequences too!!!

Mireya Trevino

self, program specialist

Austin, TX

My name is Mireya and I oppose House Bill 1515. The decision of whether or not to have a child is the most personal choice a person can make in their lifetime. HB1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that steals the choice away from patients seeking care before they even realize that they are pregnant. They have no time to confirm the pregnancy, consider options, schedule a medical appointment, or comply with the numerous existing restrictions in Texas. This bill would also allow anyone, regardless of whether they were connected to the patient or not, to sue a healthcare provider or anyone assisting the patient in accessing healthcare. Not only would this create frivolous and harassing lawsuits, it would undermine the confidence and trust one should have when consulting a physician during a medical appointment. I urge you to respect the personal health decisions of Texans, and trust that they and their doctors are able to navigate the best course of action for their patients without the unnecessary intervention of additional barriers to healthcare. Please reject this bill. Thank you.

Angela Ward

Self

San Angelo, TX

I am for HB 1515. Abortion is against all things human! We don't like to hear about animals being harmed but yet feel it is a mother's choice when it comes to taking the life of an unborn child. Her choice began when she chose to have sex full knowing she could become pregnant with a child. If abortion were not legal, woman might have to think longer about the choice she is making rather than feeling like there is always a way out. Life is created at conception and that is science. Living cells are just that, living. A life begins and every day this life grows and forms more. Taking the life of a unborn child is harmful to the mother's body as well as her emotional well-being. If a child is too much of a hardship, either financially or physically or mentally for a woman, there are other choices she can make such as adoption. There are many loving couples who would give anything to have a child to love. God is the giver of life! We should not be allowed to end that life.

Betty Rindal, Ms

Self

Temple, TX

Parents need to know that the babies heart is beating by the 5th to 7th, as verified by ultrasound..

Elizabeth Glazener

Abolish Abortion

Garland, TX

I'm a Mother and used to be Pro Choice until I saw the horrible things done in abortion clinics. Now I'm Pro Life because my conscience can't condone murder and dismemberment of an innocent baby in its Mother's womb. I have friends who've unfortunately made this life altering choice before they fully understood the gravity of it, and every single one regret it now and many are still in counseling for their deep pain after knowing they killed their child out of convenience. Because that's what this is about - convenience. Every life matters, every fetus has rights and we can't in good conscience continue to act like this is an acceptable practice in our state. Please know by not standing up for the innocent, you have made choice in the eyes of God. Please vote for the unborn child and their rights.

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Cheryl Dunlap

Self

Arlington, TX

I urge you to reject abortions after an unborn child heartbeat is detected. I was a scared teen mom but knew abortion would not be my justification for my mistake. I am now a blessed mother and grandmother. Please give this children a chance at life.

Marcos Marcos Apodaca

Self

Burnet, TX

This Bill does not protect ALL humans who are in the womb. It does not remove the death of the human because the Bill only regulates abortion.

I urge this committee to reject this and any Bill that regulates abortion instead of abolishes it. It is your sworn duty to protect the citizens of Texas and even more so all humans and their dignity. To pass a Bill that only saves some lives is to discriminate.

You must stand for all life and remove an unjust law that allows for the murder of 55,000 babies per year in the state of Texas alone.

Hold a hearing for HB 3326, the only true bill of abolition that provides equal protection to all unborn children.

Linda Mauro

Self, retired

The Woodlands, TX

I respectfully ask the committee to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Thank you.

Megan Brannen

ACLU/AVOW/Sunrise/AllyTees

Austin, TX

My name is Megan Brannen and I STRONGLY OPPOSE House Bill 1515.

I am currently trying to get pregnant with my husband, but one fear I have is that I will conceive an ectopic pregnancy (a fertilized egg outside of the womb) and may die if I'm forced to carry that fertilized egg to full term. Additionally, in college I was raped by an ex boyfriend who thought he had rights to my body while I was sleeping -- something far too many young girls in this state go through -- and if I had become pregnant, I would not have been able to care for that child financially or emotionally, and may have resented the child as well; I do not wish this upon anyone in our great state.

Further still, this bill would put undo burden on the Texas budget due to frivolous and harassing lawsuits against all those involved in something the government has no business spending my tax dollars on, and would seek to punish women unduly. The reason this cause is so near and dear to me is that I am a woman, who wants equitable access to the support of the medical community, and want the same for my fellow Texans. I do not support government overreach, and believe we should be putting our time/energy/effort/tax dollars into supporting communities, not burdening them or tearing them apart as this bill would most assuredly do.

Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

I strongly urge you to REJECT this legislation.

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Karen Eudy

Self

Royse City, TX

This is a discriminatory bill.

The Republican Party of Texas Legislative priority is: ABOLITION OF ABORTION-

Abolish abortion by ensuring the right to life and equal protection of the laws to ALL preborn children from the moment of FERTILIZATION.

Please represent the priorities of the people you are elected to represent, as well as the preborn baby Texans that these "pro-life" bills do not protect or represent.

I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely and immediately abolish abortion in Texas.

Denise Gordon

Self

Round Rock, TX

Reps Slawson | Cain | Burrows | Klick | Leach & ALL Co-sponsors: If TX truly "has compelling interests from the outset of a woman's pregnancy in protecting the health of the woman and the life of the unborn child," then TX would EXPAND MEDICAID for all Women and Children in TX, not work to force women to have babies that the cannot afford or otherwise have decided they are not able or willing to have.

How many of you have adopted children? How many of you mentor mothers to help them appropriately parent their children? How many of you have voted to properly fund our TX Public Schools to provide excellent public education for all TX children? How many of you have spent hours with a baby that has been born addicted to drugs in utero? How many of you actually work with children who have been abused and neglected? How many of you have been in an Emergency Department with a child who has been beaten for not learning their ABC's at 2 years of age?

How many of you really care about children, not just trying to control a woman's body? How many of you practice birth control? What methods have you found effective? What methods do you tell your own teens to use? Do you pay for your own teen's birth control? Why should all TX women not have the same care you provide your own families?

EVERYONE of YOU should be ashamed for sponsoring HB 1515!

Stop pretending that TX cares about children, when your real goal is to force children to be born that you will then not adequately feed, clothe, provide medical care, or educate! You only care about fetuses in utero, not the babies once they are born! It is much easier for you to find ways to Legislate women's bodies than to actually address the needs of TX's women and children who already are alive.

Stop being hypocrites and pretending that you care! Stand up for the Rights of Living Women and Children in TX, fund us adequately! Stop trying to penalize medical providers who are actually trying to help women who request abortions as opposed to all of you who only want to pretend to care!

Defeat HB 1515!

Frank Netscher

Self

AUSTIN, TX

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Vote NO on anti-abortion House Bills 1280, 1515, 2337, 2313, 3218, 3760. I am contacting you because I am very concerned about the extremist anti-abortion bills getting a public hearing this week at the Legislature. Abortion is health care and is legally protected by the U.S. Constitution. We don't need more unnecessary restrictions, and they are extremely unpopular with Texans

Alyssa Garcia

Self

Katy, TX

I oppose Hb 1515 for the reasons that it does not give women enough time to decide the fate of their future, and that there is no logical reason to ban abortions other than religion . Six weeks is not enough time for a women to know that she is pregnant and more often than not it can take up to 2 months for them to realize. Therefore should not be shortened to six weeks and instead be decided by the individual herself. As for abortion being a moral sin and the main reason others are against it, it should not dictate all other women who are agnostic, atheists and/or women's who's religion does not practice non-abortions like Christianity or catholicism. Also, with it being a medical procedure it should remain between doctor and patient. Not state and patient.

Maddy Black

Self

Mckinney, TX

Dude, literally fuck off. Where are the laws restricting men? Do you literally just hate women??? You should be advocating for their rights because they are human beings. An unborn ball of cells is not as important as the living woman. Cut the bullshit and stop trying to control women. You can't control our bodies, something that has NOTHING to do with you. It's unconstitutional. Your "separation of church and state" is unconstitutional. The Bible is never going to dictate what I do. It's bullshit. This is my life and my body, and you have no right to tell me what I can and can't do.

Emmily Wick

Self

Shiner, TX

I belive a women should be able to still choose to terminate pregnancy at this time

Kate Harslem

Self

austin`, TX

Why do you continuously try to make abortion a bad thing? Most women cannot tell they are pregnant at 6 weeks and by allowing this bill to pass you're basically telling a woman that she has no choice in the matter. Women barely got the right to vote a little over 100 yrs ago and now you're going to go ahead and tell her well you may have gotten raped or had unsafe sex WHICH EVERYONE DOES, YOU HAVE DON'T YOU DENY IT, your body isn't your choice. Well how about this, YOUR BODY ISN'T YOUR CHOICE EITHER. How do YOU feel about that? This bill is unconstitutional. Make the right decision here and stop this from passing. How would YOU feel if I told you, you didn't have access to your body?? Yeah, ANGRY AS FUCK. MY BODY, MY CHOICE. STAY OUT OF OUR UTERUSES. YOU'RE ALL JUST JEALOUS WE CAN REPRODUCE AND YOU CAN'T FUCKERS.

Kim Paterka

Self, self employed

Canyon Lake, TX

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As a former pro-lifer, I have come to realize that “pro-life” bills only serve to regulate abortion rather than to end abortion. Supporters of these bills are telling their constituents which unborn children they can and cannot pay to have murdered. For almost 50 years of pro life bills being passed, abortions are still easily accessible and there are loopholes for every pro-life bill that is passed. We need to wake up and realize that the blood of our unborn children is on our hands as long as we continue to regulate abortion. We need bills of abolition to be introduced into the house and senate. We are killing our children. Please find your courage and take a stand for what is right. Please.

Simi Shonowo

Self / Entrepreneur

Austin, TX

We have been trusted with the lives of those that are not able to protect themselves. I call on our elected representatives to protect the lives of the babies that have been entrusted to our care and prevent them from being killed as soon as a heartbeat is detected. We want to encourage people as a culture to protect life at its inception because what we do with a new life represents what we do with all life.

We as individuals want to be protected in our lives and be freed to pursue our purpose. I call on you to protect the lives of these that are not able to protect themselves so they are able to pursue their purposes. Please rally and protect the most vulnerable members of our society. Thank you for your time!

Michelle Rodriguez

Self and student

Ferris, TX

My name is Michelle Rodriguez and I oppose House Bill HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218 and HB 3760. I personally oppose these bills because it takes away a women’s right to her own body, and secondly because there is better to be a unborn child then a child in the foster care system where it is over run, abuse and so much more. I along with many other women oppose the bill, and urge them to reject this legislation!!!

Cameron Marsh

Self

Austin, TX

Hi my name is Cameron Marsh and I am writing in opposition to HR 1515. This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction.

Sharon Mineo

None

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. This extreme and dangerous bill is not only opposed by the medical community but will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges, which have already failed in multiple other states.

Selena Torres

Self

Friendswood, TX

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My name is Selena Torres and I oppose House Bill HB 1515. I personally oppose this bill because I feel like for everyone who needs or wants an abortion should have the right to do what they want with there own body without having to think about getting in trouble. This bill is unconstitutional and will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. I care about abortion access because I am a female and I should get to decide what I can and can't do to my own body without having to worry about if I'm breaking the law. I also worry about my fellow females who might not have the stability or health to raise a kid; even if they do end up in foster care or the adoption Agency what is there to prove that this kid that they were forced to have is going to live a health happy life? I that is why I deeply opposed this bill and I urge you to reject this legislation.

Kelly Le

Self, Student

Houston, TX

My name is Kelly Le and I oppose House Bill 1515.

HB 1515 would make it nearly impossible — or at the very least, extremely difficult — for a person to get an abortion because it bans abortions as early as 6 weeks into a pregnancy. This is before many people typically even find out they are pregnant. Therefore, it fails to guarantee them adequate time to become aware of and confirm their pregnancy, consider their options, and successfully schedule and receive a safe abortion while navigating through the many already-existing restrictions on abortions in Texas. Texans deserve better healthcare; they deserve to have adequate access to services like abortion if they decide to get one, not yet restriction.

It also leaves physicians and other healthcare workers subject to frivolous lawsuits from any random person, which is very unproductive considering that they are just doing their job: providing safe, trustworthy, and quality healthcare to their patients. Furthermore, medical experts including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans such as the one in HB 1515. Physicians answer a call to provide quality, patient-centered care to their patients; if their patient is one who is seeking an abortion, HB 1515 would effectively discourage and bar them from fulfilling that call.

Both of these points from HB 1515 would decrease the quality of women's healthcare in Texas. It affects both patients and physicians negatively as it relates to abortion. Although I have never needed an abortion before, nor do I expect to, I care about abortion access because I want Texas to provide the quality healthcare that my sisters, friends, and future daughters deserve. Also, as an aspiring medical student, I feel that it is my duty to protect my future patients and improve the future of healthcare. The Texas healthcare community should be able to practice the full range of obstetric and gynecologic healthcare so that it can take care of any and all Texas patients.

HB 1515 is a bad, unproductive bill because it makes it almost impossible for people to legally obtain an abortion and fails to support the Texas medical community in providing important healthcare to all patients. Legislators, I urge you to put your trust in patients and physicians; please, reject HB 1515 and work to make Texas healthcare better for women and all.

Jim Baxa, Dr

West Texas for Life

Lubbock, TX

While this bill is well intended, we can do better. We need to ban all abortions, not just after a heartbeat is detected by an abortionist who is inclined to not find the heartbeat. We also need to ignore the federal courts on abortion since they lack the jurisdiction to strike State laws. The only bill that will be successful in saving lives is 1 that has a 10th Amendment provision to ignore Roe. Please Amend this bill to ban all abortions, provide equal protection for pre-born babies, and ignore Roe.

Ken Nolley

Self

GILMER, TX

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Please SAVE OUR BABIES IN WOMB AND STOP ALL ABORTIONS, THANKS FOR YOUR SERVICE KEN NOLLEY

Teresa Pinnell

Individual

Kingwood, TX

I urge you to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. I believe history will harshly judge our civilization as barbaric based on our willingness to sacrifice the true innocents - the preborn. How many potential great leaders, peacemakers, visionaries, innovators has our society already been denied because no one was willing to defend their lives?

Karen Milewski, Mrs

Self

Lindale, TX

Vote against abortion at any stage

Kennedy Pollan

self

salado, TX

My name is Kennedy Pollan and i oppose the bill HB 1515 because it bans abortion at 6 weeks, which is before most people even know they're pregnant. This is a dangerous bill. It is a constitutional right to have access to abortions and we need them to prevent children growing up below the poverty line or in the foster system. Please don't let this bill pass!!!

Haley Harrell

Self

Rockwall, TX

I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

The protection of life, all life, from conception on should be our ultimate goal. It breaks my heart when I see individuals more concerned about the welfare and rights of animals than the rights and welfare of humans beings. We must be better.

Thank you for your time,

Haley Harrell

Jordan Lohrmann, Mrs

Self

Tomball, TX

Please consider rejecting this bill. We do not want continued regulation of abortion but the full abolition of abortion which is the taking of human life. Please immediately hear HB 3326 instead of this bill and vote for protecting human life.

patty terry

self, retired teacher, currently Reading Interventionist for LCISD

Richmond, TX

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Abortion without a medical need should be illegal.

Ann-Marie Hedberg, Dr.

Self; retired health care worker and grandparent of foster children

Bellaire, TX

Please support legislation protecting citizens from time of conception with proof of heartbeat. Thank you, Dr Hedberg

Shelby Albert

Self

San Antonio, TX

Please pass this bill

Brenda Frank, Retired teacher

Self

Tomball, TX

Dear Representatives in Public Health Committee,

My name is Brenda Frank and I am writing to express my opinion on HB 1515 that bans abortion after the preborn child's heartbeat is detected. I am FOR this bill. Please vote Yes for HB 1515 by Slawson.

Sincerely,

Brenda Frank

12220 Zion Rd Tomball Tx 77375

Sally Tutor

Self, home-maker

Burnet, TX

It is admirable to protect the unborn, but HB 1515 creates a class of persons who are denied equal justice and protection. That class is made up of children whose heartbeats are undetectable due to the limitations of technology. It denies the right to life to those children who are too young to have a detectable heartbeat or whose mother's womb is tipped an odd direction. It presupposes the diligence of someone who makes money by NOT finding the heartbeat.

HB 1515 falls short of the Republican legislative priority to abolish abortion in Texas. Please amend the bill to protect ALL unborn children.

Thank you for giving your time to serve this great state.

Zac Hammer

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this bill because abortion should be a personal decision by women, not the government. Making abortion illegal increases the risks that women will have abortions not performed by medical professionals or try do it themselves.

JOHN THOMSON

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self (computer programmer)

DALLAS, TX

While this bill is better than nothing, it seems unlikely to me that it can be enforced. I would like to strongly urge you to pass HB 3326 which entirely rejects the foolish notion that a conspiracy leading to the deliberate killing of a human being for profit is protected by a constitutional provision preventing unreasonable search, and instead adopts the sensible and constitutional idea that all human beings, including those not yet born, should be equally protected from such outrageous behavior.

"Unreasonable" search implies that there are no reasonable grounds to suspect a crime. What is more clearly a crime than deliberately killing someone? What crime could government possibly have a greater duty to prevent and punish than deliberately killing an utterly helpless person? What more grounds do you need than a facility openly offering such services? The situation is precisely analogous to a hit-man for hire wanting privacy for his discussions with his client. You would not apply doctor-patient confidentiality to the situation of a doctor providing a patient with poison for the purpose of killing off an inconvenient elderly relative. How is abortion different? Please pass a bill like HB 3326 which will stop it absolutely.

Deena Ricard, Nurse

Self

Palestine, TX

Abortion is WRONG.

Especially wrong and in big Trouble with God after the baby has a heartbeat! We must fix this and stop murdering our young! Be strong and be able to Tell God when he opens up your book on life THAT YOU FOUGHT FOR HIS CHILDREN!

Laurie Davis

Self

Lewisville, TX

I support the complete abolition of abortion. I believe that it is a crime to kill a human life in the womb.

Pedro Gonzalez

Self

Amarillo, TX

Disregard all bills and immediately read, discern with heavenly wisdom and pass HB 3326 for the sake of unborn fellow Texans. Thank you for seeking God's wisdom and may you live a long life which is something aborted babies can never do.

Patricia Sumrow

Myself

Frisco, TX

I'm a Texas resident asking the committee to STOP advancing any legislation that attacks abortion access and regulates medical decisions I as a woman should make with my doctor. I strongly oppose House Bill 1515. The Texas House needs to focus on the real crises facing Texans like access to health care, responding to COVID-19, maternal mortality, and the energy crisis, not Dan Patrick's political agenda.

LeLynne Waltman Knight

self

Mansfield, TX

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As a 58 year old woman and mother I am stunned that the access to have an abortion is once again up for debate. Women's reproductive health is not a political issue it is a fundamental right for a woman to have both the access and the right to safe healthcare.

Sarah Baker, Mrs.

Self, wife, homeschooling mother

Boerne, TX

To regulate abortion based on heartbeat is to say that abortion in some sense is okay. This is against the law of God, which is the only law by which we may truly live. Abolish ALL abortion, please, for the sake of God and of all human life which is created by Him. Please, get to the root, don't spend time in these false half-measures. Thank you. Respectfully, and appreciative of your service to our state, Sarah Baker

Mary Jo Bechler

Self/ massage therapist

Spicewood, TX

Please have a hearing for HB 3326!

Amy Bell

self

Galveston, TX

Oppose

Laura Midgett

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I can not Condone the murder of unborn children. This is being used as a birth control method and is an abomination.

THEODORE RAYMOND

self

Cleveland, TX

I urge you in the Name of Jesus Christ to reject the further regulation of abortion and give HB3326 a hearing so that abortion can be abolished in Texas.

James Herblin

self

Prosper, TX

Unfortunately, pro-life bills presented in the last 60 plus years have been inadequate and "soft", at best. Most pro-life legislation currently being presented is pragmatic (cowardly) as it does not put an end to abortion – the door is always left open. Texas needs to take seriously the fact that abortion is murder. Think about that statement for just a moment. Abortion is murder.

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Texas legislators refuse to shut the door to abortion. Texas legislators put forth pragmatic pro-life bills which deal with superfluous ideas (resource access, hospital disclosures, discrimination, abortion costs, heartbeat issues, notifications, etc.) that will always allow a way out such that abortions will continue to be performed.

Back to my point, abortion is murder. As a matter of fact, it is premeditated murder. It is brutal. It is performed on the living innocent. It is the most serious kind of murder that one can commit. However, and unfortunately, most pro-life legislators craft legislation as though abortion is nothing more than a Class C misdemeanor versus the 1st degree murder that it is.

Why is this? Why are most Texas legislators not putting forth/supporting pro-life legislation that will shut the door to abortion? Ask yourself that question. Why pragmatism? Why the use of "clever" wordsmithing? Why not call murder, murder?

Have any of you ever seen a video illustrating an abortion? Have you seen a video entitled, "The Silent Scream"? You should do so before you decide. Understand that abortion is more than putting an end to something; it is the brutal murder of the innocent and living pre-born. That should mean something to all of us. Something is virtuously wrong with one who can view The Silent Scream and still be ambivalent to abortion being classified as anything other than the premeditated brutal murder of the innocent and living pre-born.

Do the right thing ladies and gentlemen. Many of you claim Christianity. OK, well, what would He do? Would He support/favor wordsmithing, pragmatism, cleverness, disingenuousness, etc. as a way to promote Christian living/obedience? Or was He loving and kind, yet bold and genuinely candid?

HB 3326 is the only bill presented that will candidly and courageously defend and end the current brutal murdering of the innocent and living pre-born. HB 3326 language loudly speaks "NO, NOT ON MY WATCH".

Fear not your adversaries, stand morally and judicially for the innocent and living pre-born - as He would.

Linda Magid

Self

San Antonio, TX

I ask the committee to not move this bill forward. Abortions are still legal in the United States and the committee should be working to help Texas residents with real crises like access to health care, increasing/supporting hospitals in rural counties, and COVID-19.

William Pierrard, Magnolia

Self

Magnolia, TX

I am in support of this bill, but not limited to sound of heartbeat. If you can see the child in the womb via ultrasound that should also be a consideration.

D Hawley

Self, self-employed

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for the opportunity to make a comment. Given the many factors that make detecting a baby's heartbeat difficult, I believe this bill would be practicably unenforceable. Additionally, it is unjust to allow the life of a child to be taken as long as their heartbeat cannot be detected. I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Thank you.

William Pierrard, Magnolia

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Self

Magnolia, TX

I am in favor of this legislation, and would like to expand the limitations to include visible detection via ultrasound

R Fulmer

Self, self-employed

San Antonio, TX

Thank you for your work & service on behalf of our state. Instead of bills which regulate abortion, such as this one, I urge the committee to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. It is wrong to kill any child, regardless of whether or not their heartbeat can be detected. Please support HB 3326 to protect all children in Texas, without compromise. Thank you.

Charles Branscum

self

Grand Praire, TX

STOP THE GENOCIDE OF INFANTS

Mildred Perryman

Myself

Graham76450, TX

I oppose abortion

Sharon DeMarsais

Self

The Woodlands, TX

Please support the heartbeat bill. A heartbeat is the clear evidence that the child has its own identity.

Also I do not support state funding of abortions.

Jana Colgate

self

Center Point, TX

In a state touting personal freedoms and rights, this bill negates all rights of a woman. I do not support this bill.

Maria Hammerlein

Self

Kerrville, TX

Dear Committee Member:

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I am writing to commend you on the your attempts to restrict abortion in the State of Texas. It has come to the point however that rather than pass more legislation that pro-abortion groups will render unenforceable like a heartbeat bill passed in the other 11+ states that have passed it.

We've had 48 years of failures of pro-life bills like that—we want abolition now to stop the murder of more than 155 babies a day!

It is time to give up on the the continued weak regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. A beating heart no matter what age, pre-born or not is worth the effort! God help us if we turn a blind eye to the savagery!

God bless you for your consideration!

Jana Colgate

self

Center Point, TX

This bill violates a woman's freedom to choose healthcare options. I do not support this bill.

Phyllis Duzan

Self

League City, TX

I oppose!

Rachel Gollay

self

Fort Worth, TX

I strongly oppose HB 1515, it is anti-choice, unconstitutional, and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans and will severely impact the health and wellbeing of people who deserve bodily autonomy.

Lindsay Grooms

Self

Lewisville, TX

Against 1515 because no one should be forced to have a baby.

mary gross

N/A

Haltom City, TX

please stand by HB 1515 for Life.

Janice Harris, Mrs

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Janices Office Works and Dispatching LLC

CARTHAGE, TX

one thing not mentioned is the fathers rights. I believe the father should have a say in what happens to the baby.

Ana Luisa Valdez

self

Dallas, TX

How is it that the GOP condones groups of men to roam the streets with assault weapons to protect their 2nd amendment rights, but insists on inserting themselves in to the most private of medical choices of women? Your actions indicate that you believe women don't understand their own bodies, nor the choices that they make. Why are you allowing other people to force women to give birth? WHY is the life of the unborn more sacred than that of the born? Why are you so dismissive of women's struggles?

Mary Walther

Self

Houston, TX

I absolutely oppose this bill - this is government outreach. Nothing should stand between the decisions a woman and her doctor makes.

Helena Dobay

self

Horseshoe Bay, TX

Many Texans who live in rural counties suffer from a lack of access to healthcare facilities. Texas should not undermine the U.S. Constitution's abortion rights or reproductive rights for women. Instead of making it harder for Texas women to get access to clinics for healthcare screenings and to exercise their right to terminate a problem pregnancy which might endanger their own life, we must improve healthcare for all Texans. Texas Legislature is under scrutiny in the national media and risks losing business by pursuing discriminatory laws. Let's move forward so we can do better in health measures and quality of life.

Joel Tope

self

Kingsland, TX

Abortion is a plague on our state. I'm appealing to you as our state representatives to put a stop to it. You need to be the voice for the pre-born who cannot speak for themselves. Please be bold and protect our children by abolishing abortion in the State of Texas. You have an obligation before the LORD to do this. He is the One who has put you in this position "for such a time as this." Don't fear men. Fear the LORD! I respectfully urge the committee to reject this continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Thank you.

Diana Richards

Self, Volunteer

Sherman, TX

As a Mother and Native Texan, I am FOR HB1515 "Heartbeat Bill" to protect preborn babies. I almost said baby Texans, but we know that the abortion industry has turned Texas into an abortion tourist destination. Passing this bill would save lives from all over our country. Thank you for hearing this important bill. Please vote today to pass HB1515 favorably out of committee and

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onto the Local and Consent Calendar for vote on the Full House Floor.

Rosemurie Leon

Self

Cypress, TX

My mother was told to abort me due to her health issues, she chose to keep me even if it costed her her own life, t urs after inwas born she passed away. I will forever fight for unborn babies, especially unborn babies with special needs they deserve a RIGHT to live! Abortion is NOT Healthcare

Edith Corbitt

Self

Whitney, TX

I'm opposed to any legislation that limits choice of healthcare. The healthcare choices of every citizen are private between healthcare professionals and the patient. Government should have no role in limiting options that are available for the patient.

Jeana Nam

self, counselor

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. It would effectively ban abortion for most people and force them to continue pregnancies they do not wish to carry, or push them to seek care in other states. This bill, like most abortion restrictions, will hit marginalized people and their families the hardest. It's unconscionable.

Malissa Torres

-- please select a prefix --

Three Rivers, TX

I do not agree with this bill. Texas makes healthcare unattainable at the risk of Texas women's lives. It's dangerous and unthinkable to deny women safe and legal access to abortion especially before quickening. This bill will be detrimental to poor, minority and rural women aince, healthcare options are extremely limited. I oppose HB 1515.

Carisa Lopez

Texas Freedom Network

Austin, TX

The Texas Freedom Network, an organization of more than 170,000 religious and community leaders and young people who support equality and social justice.

Today I am registering TFN's opposition to HB 1515.

Abortion is health care, and polling shows that the majority of Texans support the constitutional right to obtain one. This legislation represents yet another reckless, unconstitutional attack on the right of Texans to access to safe, legal abortion care.

All Texans should be free to determine the course of their own reproductive lives, including whether and when to become a parent. Nobody should face fear, stigma, or unnecessary barriers when seeking out reproductive health care, including abortion care.

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Research shows one in four women will have an abortion in her lifetime. It is no one's place — especially not the government's — to interfere in the reproductive decisions they make, including decisions about abortion and birth control.

When people can make decisions that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity and equality. And when someone decides to have an abortion, it should be safe, affordable, and free from punishment or judgment.

TFN urges the House Public Health Committee to defend the right of Texans to make their own reproductive health care decisions and not to approve this bill for consideration by the full House.

Laura Btaley

Self

Plano, TX

Please reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

Janet Dudding

Self

Bryan, TX

OPPOSE

Angie Martinez

self

Seguin, TX

My name is Angie Davis and I oppose HB 1515. I oppose this on the basis that women have the right to make a personal choice about their body. Further, women need to be able to find safe and affordable access to an abortion. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Beth Walker

Self

Round Rock, TX

I believe in the value of every human life and that a baby growing inside its mother's womb should be protected and given rights in the same way as a child once it is born. The only difference is his or her location. Our efforts and funds should be used to provide resources and education for the strengthening of the family unit, not the destruction of life that is viewed as inconvenient. The far-reaching effects of this value system are a danger to society. If we value life in any form, we must encourage family structure that supports life. Abortion does untold damage to families and has major detrimental side effects for both parents including mental health problems which are already at a critical state in our nation today. Please consider the passing of any bill that protects life in the womb.

Paula Huber

Self

Spring, TX

Oppose.

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Cecelia Luna  
Self, patient advocate  
San Antonio, TX

Though there is considered to be a heart beat, there is not actual HEART. Abortion is health care. You do not care about children, you are just trying to control women and their bodies. Children don't deserve to be in foster homes or to grow up in adoption agencies knowing they are unwanted and waiting to find a home. If they never find a home then they are pushed out expected to survive in this horrible world. YOU DONT CARE ABOUT THE CHILD

Paul Orlando  
Self  
Tiki Island, TX

Please take up HB 3326 to completely abolish Abortion in Texas. As Texans we must defend the rights of our most innocent and helpless citizens. We can't ignore science that this unborn person is a unique human. History will look back on us in horror how we killed or own children in the womb. And above all we are violating God's Law. Our Declaration of Independence states that our rights are provided by Our Creator and therefore not by mankind. So we are violating these rights by allowing Abortion to take place.

Michelle Morris  
Myself financial planner  
Missouri City, TX

Oppose

Lyndsi Lambert  
Self  
Austin, TX

My name is Lyndsi Lambert and I oppose House Bill 1515.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

I urge you to reject this unconstitutional legislation.

Adam Smok  
American Patriots  
Weatherford, TX

Abortion is murder, killin anything with a heartbeat is murder.

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Arun Welch  
self  
Missouri City, TX

Abortion is an essential part of health care and decisions regarding this treatment should be made by the patient and the healthcare provider, not by the legislature.

Doris Spraggins  
self  
Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB1515. I am for this bill.

Hannah Sullivan  
Self  
Lubbock, TX

Women deserve better! No one should be able to tell women how to control their bodies. Ridiculous and archaic, and potentially fatal to people who will seek abortions in other ways.

Susan Markus  
Retired  
Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. Women have a constitutionally protected right to choose how we live our reproductive lives. The state should not interfere in our personal medical decisions. Focus on effective sex education and making birth control readily available instead.

Ilan Huang  
Self/ educator  
Round Rock, TX

Please vote yes for this bill to protect the precious babies inside their mother's womb whom do not have a voice. Please be their voice and say yes to the heartbeat bill. Their heartbeat shows they are alive. They even have their own blood. The mother's blood is not in them. They have their own blood and heartbeat separate from their mom's. No one has the right to kill them. "There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers." Proverbs 6:16-19. I do not want to support abortion that sheds innocent blood. Please protect the innocent babies inside the womb by supporting HB 1515.

Michael Rastiello  
Self, Product Manager  
Austin, TX

This is a dangerous bill that would unfairly treat Texans seeking medical care that should remain private between them and their doctor. The government has no place in this discussion or decision.

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Hannah Thalenberg  
Self, abortion funder  
Houston, TX

My name is Hannah Thalenberg, and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill is effectively a near-total ban on abortion that is not only unconstitutional, but also extremely harmful to people like me, who need this essential health care in order to build the lives they want for themselves, and the abortion providers, loved ones, and community members who support them.

A number of years ago, I had an abortion six weeks into my pregnancy. I was fortunate to get an appointment at my local abortion clinic only days after finding out that I was pregnant. Under HB 1515, even this would have been too late. The cardiac activity of pulsing cells in my uterus (because an embryo the size of a lentil does not have a heart), which I was \*forced\* to hear due to Texas' mandated sonogram, would have meant that I had to either carry a pregnancy to term for which I was completely unprepared or take riskier measures to make sure that I would only have children when I was ready to give them the care they need and deserve.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant. Most abortions can't even happen at 6 weeks' gestation like mine did because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure, and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas.

As someone who helps people in my community overcome financial and logistical barriers to abortion access, I also take issue with how HB 1515 would create frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who "aids or abets" the performance of an abortion. Perpetuating stigma and empowering those who already harass and threaten abortion providers, patients, and volunteers goes against this committee's directive to promote public health.

Furthermore, HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time-consuming legal challenges, which is a slap in the face as too many Texans are still recovering from the devastation of a winter storm during which the state apparently couldn't afford to keep actual children from freezing to death.

Once again, because all Texans deserve to be able to affirm, care for, and make decisions for their bodies, families, and communities, I urge this committee to oppose House Bill 1515.

Marc Pitts  
Self  
Flint, TX

My name is Marc Pitts and I strongly support HB 1515 by Rep. Slawson. It's time to protect women and unborn babies from predatory abortion mills! The Texas Heartbeat Act will help ensure that our most vulnerable tiny Texans will not have their heart beats silenced forever. I urge the members of this committee to defend the sanctity of human life and prevent the tragic suffering of an untold number of men and women due to the evils of abortion. This bill deserves a vote on the House floor and final passage into law.

Jessica Rauch  
self, stay at home mother  
Amarillo, TX

My name is Jessica Rauch and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill is an extreme and dangerous bill that would ban abortion before many women even know they are pregnant, it is also unconstitutional as it is a pre-viability ban. This bill is also an affront to the bodily autonomy of people who can become pregnant. 6 week bans have already been tried in several states and been struck down everywhere, it is a waste of this states resources ESPECIALLY as we are still in the middle of a pandemic. As none

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of the state legislators are doctors, please stop making medical decisions for people in this state when people who are medical professionals, like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, oppose these types of bans.

As a mother, I am strongly opposed to abortion bans and restrictions because I know how dangerous and difficult pregnancy and childbirth are. Pregnant people have rights and deserve to choose what to do with their bodies. There are no laws governing what a man can do with their body and there should be no laws governing anyone else's. This bill is dangerous for pregnant people and outright unconstitutional and I urge you to reject this legislation.

Sylvia Coulson

Self Dietitian

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill. We must save these babies and all unborn babies.

Sara Beckner

Self

Pflugerville, TX

OPPOSE

Kathy Boyd, Mrs.

self

McKinney, TX

I completely agree that abortion is reprehensible. The intentionally stopping of a humans heartbeat is reprehensible, and if done to a person outside the womb, would be considered manslaughter at the least and murder at most. If we view that as such with a born human, it only stands to reason the the same should be considered for the pre-born human.

I'm asking my state representatives to stand with me in this and make it a law that abortion would be illegal, especially when detecting a heartbeat whether by doppler sound or ultrasound .

Thank you for your time,

Kathy Boyd

Craig Honer

Self healthcare Chiropractor

San Antonio, TX

Pertaining to HB 1515 I ask that the committee members listen with their hearts to testimony today and make decisions based on their conscience to support the innocent unborn lives at stake. Thank you for your service.

Monica Contreras

Self

Laredo, TX

Hello, my name is Monica

I am personally against this bill for numerous reason including that the government should not be making a woman's decision for her. It is unethical & unprofessional that this bill was made to control women. Without an medically safe abortion, I wouldn't be a productive member of society that contributes to the american economy. At six weeks, most women do not know they are pregnant and will not know until either 8 weeks or more. I urge everyone to not pass this bill since it would create an influx of dangerous abortions, force women to travel out of state or country, & will give texas a bad reputation on how they treat their citizens.

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Bradley Biss  
Self employed welder  
Wallis, TX

Abolish Abortion Please

Paula Rogish, Ms  
Self- Teacher  
Austin, TX

I am a life-long Texas resident who holds the right to a safe abortion. To restrict it to 6 weeks would be an infringement on that right, seeing as many people do not even know they are pregnant until after 6 weeks. HB 1515 is downright unconstitutional and similar laws have been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. If you truly care about representing your constituents, you will NOT pass this bill.

Melanie Fletcher  
Self writer  
Plano, TX

I oppose this bill as I consider it to be far too restrictive, extreme, and dangerous for the health of women.

Lexy Garcia  
Texas Rising  
San Antonio, TX

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. I strongly oppose this bill because it is moving in the opposite direction to achieve true reproductive freedom for all texans, and makes us have this regulatory fight over and over again. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges. Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans.

Maggie Adams  
Self, stay at home parent  
Nacogdoches, TX

Oppose. Only women and their healthcare providers should be making decisions about necessary medical procedures. Restricting abortions puts women's lives at risk by taking away their right to medical care.

Emily Domaschk  
Self, Audit & Compliance Manager  
Elgin, TX

My name is Emily Domaschk and I oppose HB1515.

This bill is unconstitutional and would allow anyone to bring frivolous cases against doctors who are providing health care to

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women. It also is predicated on a woman knowing she's pregnant very early in pregnancy. Defending a bill such as this will take up valuable resources (time, money).

This type of legislation doesn't reduce the need for abortion. The most effective solution is improved medical care, access to effective birth control, and improved sex ed, that's not abstinence only but realistic. Conception takes both a man and a woman, and these attempts to limit abortion all focus on only policing women's bodies.

Maliyah Cantualla

Self

Pasadena, TX

My name is maliyah cantualla and I oppose the house bill HB 1515: 6-week ban. Being denied abortion is harmful to your mental health. The evidence is the turnaway study a 10 year study comparing people who got abortions versus people who just missed the deadline and were turned away. The study found people who were denied abortions had worse mental health outcomes. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. I oppose this bill because this would leave so many women stranded of an unwanted pregnancy, we need to stop making bills that control women's bodies.

Heidi Gordon

Self / None

League City, TX

Oppose. Keep abortion legal and safe. Most don't know they're pregnant at 6 weeks.

Jon Speed, Rev.

First Baptist Church of Briar

Azle, TX

I am the Pastor of Missions and Evangelism and an elder at FBC Briar in Azle, TX. I am the co-producer of the documentaries on abortion called Babies Are Murdered Here (2014) and Babies Are Still Murdered Here (2019). I went viral in 2019 when I shut down my used book store for the day after New York State passed the Reproductive Health Act and appeared on Fox and Friends (twice), Hannity and Beck. I am a co-founder of the new, upcoming faith based streaming service called LOOR.tv.

I rise to testify AGAINST HB 1515. Abortionists have long ago found ways to get around ultrasound requirements in the State of Texas. Amanda Kreuger, a former medical assistant at Whole Woman's Health in Fort Worth, quit last fall and did a video interview with me on Apologia Studios. She testified that the equipment in that clinic is old and they needed to order Doppler audio equipment to meet the Texas regulations, but it has NEVER BEEN OPENED. It's still in the same boxes it came in. Obviously, WWH is not planning on observing any regulation regarding ultrasounds in Texas. You can see the interview we did with her here: <https://www.facebook.com/ApologiaStudios/videos/3329795300673502>. Any ultrasound\heartbeat bill is unenforceable in Texas or anywhere else.

We also documented this in Babies Are Still Murdered Here. At the 31:00 mark you can see Sarah Cleveland, a registered ultrasound tech in Ohio, demonstrate HOW the techs manipulate the wand on the machine to distort the images and how they can avoid sharing the heartbeat while obeying the heartbeat laws. The link is here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-vyYE6C8MU>. Abortionists have no financial motivation to obey these regulations and they DO NOT.

This bill, and many others that are being considered in this legislative session, are unenforceable and cannot do what they claim. They are not much more than virtue signaling.

In the meantime, the State of New York--which has no pro-life regulation--is showing declining numbers in real abortions than the State of Texas. How is this possible without pro-life regulations or specifically, heartbeat bills?

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The answer lies in the rise in chemical abortions that can be procured online and emergency contraception which is available in almost every pharmacy and big box retailer in Texas and New York. It's similar to the Uber and Lyft influence on the taxi cab industry. It's not that people aren't using other people's vehicles to get to the airport. It's that they're using a different industry. The declining numbers in recent years are likely attributable to these other sources, but since they do not publish statistics there's no way of knowing exactly the impact. However, you can deduce that the availability is massive and therefore indeed does have an influence.

It's time to stop regulating abortion and it's time to really (really) abolish it. The only bill this session which does that is Slaton's HB 3326. This bill is a mess.

Katrin Young

Myself

Magnolia, TX

My name is Katrin Young, and on April 7, 1995, I had an abortion. I was a college student and thought it was my only option. It has been twenty six years and I still regret that "choice". From the moment I saw the ultrasound and heard the heartbeat of my baby I realized fully that I was taking a precious life. I ask you to think about this- let yourself imagine a child that you love fiercely at this very moment in your life- and imagine yourself being the one who purposely and permanently ends his or her existence.

If the heartbeat bill had been in effect that day, my story would have changed, my heart and mind would have looked at the other options instead of being paralyzed by fear.

The ministry I am involved with is called New Heart of Texas. We facilitate healing retreats for men and women who have suffered through the trauma of abortion. We have several retreats a year, and they are ALWAYS full. I see many people stuck and hiding in the suffocating grip of abortion, living in secrets and self-hate. Women and men believing they do not deserve anything more than destruction. It is amazing to be part of the Holy Spirit's work of grace, mercy, and redemption, to see new hearts full of hope, burdens lifted by the power of Christ.

I will see many more, for the number of people already harmed by abortion seems insurmountable. If we enact this heartbeat bill- many will be saved from knowing this trauma. We need to help women see past the fear of an unexpected future, walk through their fears WITH them instead of leading them through the dark to destruction.

Scott Langridge

Self, Attendant Care Services

Kyle, TX

Government should never be involved in a woman's decision to give or terminate birth. She isn't cattle. If she believes her health is compromised by a pregnancy, she should be able to use her health insurance to get a procedure done for herself. Regardless of any man, government body, or other woman; the decision is to be made from an autonomous stand point with no prejudice

Kathryn Motard

Retired

Houston, TX

Oppose. You are not god or mother nature. You have no way of legislating when life begins and whether a women can or can not make this choice for herself.

Dave Turley

Self retired

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Rockwall, TX

Please consider approving this bill...science has shown when a heartbeat starts and if abortion is allowed after that, that's the same as MURDER!!.

Thank you

Don Spraggins

Self

Fredericksburg, TX

I support HB 1515.

Arthur Simon

self, artist

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill. The development of a fetus' nervous system is a better milestone for registering pain or soul. Even then, weeks and months into the pregnancy, the decision should remain exclusive to the woman and her doctor.

Aditya Gollakota

Self

Austin, TX

This is an absolutely terrible bill and restricts the fundamental freedoms of women. The government is not in a position to regulate a woman's body. I use this to vehemently oppose this bill.

Dana Gannon

Tax paying citizens

League City, TX

There is plenty of birth control available to prevent pregnancy if you don't want a baby. Some women use killing babies through abortion as birth control. It's not right and even worse when tax payers are forced to pay for it.

Charles Siegel, Attorney

Jane's Due Process

Dallas, TX

#### SECTION 171.208 PLAINLY VIOLATES THE TEXAS CONSTITUTION

No case can proceed in a Texas court without standing on the part of the plaintiff to bring it. "A court has no jurisdiction over a claim made by a plaintiff who lacks standing to assert it." Heckman v. Williamson County, 369 S.W.3d 137, 150 (Tex. 2012).

Any plaintiff in Texas must have suffered an injury to himself or herself – not an injury to someone else. From Justice Willett:

In Texas, the standing doctrine requires a concrete injury to the plaintiff and a real controversy between the parties that will be resolved by the court.

...

The plaintiff must be personally injured—he must plead facts demonstrating that he, himself (rather than a third party or the

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public at large), suffered the injury. After all, our Constitution opens the courthouse doors only to those who have or are suffering an injury. As for the injury itself, it “must be concrete and particularized, actual or imminent, not hypothetical.” ...

Id. at 154-55. Judge Oldham has emphasized that the injury is the “first and foremost” element of standing. *Center for Biological Diversity v. USEPA*, 937 F.3d 533, 537 (5th Cir. 2019), quoting *Spokeo, Inc. v. Robins*, 136 S.Ct. 1540 (2016).

These bedrock requirements come from our constitution. They derive from the provision for separation of powers among the branches of government, and from the open courts provision, which provides access only to a ‘person for an injury done him.’” Tex. Const. Art. I, §13. As then–Justice Cornyn put it, “[u]nder the Texas Constitution, standing is implicit in the open courts provision, which contemplates access to the courts only for those litigants suffering an injury.” *Texas Ass’n of Business v. Texas Air Control Bd.*, 852 S.W.2d 440, 445 (Tex. 1993).

Can the Legislature bestow standing upon someone who has not personally suffered an injury? No. As Chief Justice Hecht explained succinctly, “courts’ constitutional jurisdiction cannot be enlarged by statute.” *Finance Commission of Texas v. Norwood*, 418 S.W.3d 566, 583 n. 83 (Tex. 2013). Also from Chief Justice Hecht: “For the Legislature to attempt to authorize a court to act without subject matter jurisdiction would violate the constitutional separation of powers.” *In re Lazy W Dist. No. 1*, 493 S.W.3d 538, 544 (Tex. 2016).

The Legislature cannot confer standing on private parties who have not suffered an injury. E.g., *McAllen Medical Ctr., Inc. v. Cortez*, 86 S.W.3d 227, 231 (Tex. 2001)(statute creating right to appeal any class certification order “does not supplant the constitutional requirement that the court of appeals have subject matter jurisdiction, and both ripeness and standing are necessary components of that jurisdiction.”).

Judy Malandrucolo

self

Plano, TX

A woman's Reproductive Rights need to be protected from your harsh legislation. Trying to hinder our right to choose our own healthcare options is not up to the Christian Nationalist men who want to control our bodies. Do women not have a right to liberty, life, and happiness? You are choosing an unborn - a non-person (they don't pay taxes, do they?) over the life of a woman who is having to make a very difficult choice. That choice is between her and her doctor, not for the government's interference. Stay out of our wombs! I remember before *Roe v Wade* when women had to get abortions in unhealthy facilities or go to Mexico and risk their lives. Abortions will not stop, no matter how many laws you try to pass. You will only succeed in denying a woman's right to safe healthcare. All these abortion bills need to go away. Judy Malandrucolo

Debbie Ridlon, Mrs., (mother and grandmother)

Self

Sudan, TX

I am for right of life unless danger of life to mother. The unborn is a person from time of conception!

Carol Andrews

Self

League City, TX

Oppose

Joni Silva

Silva Lining Voice Over

Houston, TX

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No stranger has a right to judge over decisions made by myself about my own healthcare. Get Government OUT of my healthcare decisions. Vote to oppose this ridiculous bill.

Mark Ramsey, P.E.

Self / Engineer

Spring, TX

+++

Committee Members:

I support HB 1515. No child should be murdered...especially after they have a heartbeat!

In the Greek New Testament (Greek of course being a much richer and more descriptive language than English), there is no distinction between the word used to describe the unborn baby John (who leaped in Elizabeth's womb), and the word used to describe the ALREADY born baby Jesus in the manger in Bethlehem. The Greek word (brephos), according to Strongs Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible, is used both for:

Definition:

an unborn child, embryo, a foetus

a new-born child, an infant, a babe

A child is a child no matter how small.

Thank you.

Blessings.

Mark

Mark S. Ramsey, P.E.

2020 Electoral College Member

Texas Tech University Distinguished Engineer

Chair, 2020 RPT State Legislative Priorities Committee

Chair, 2018 RPT State Platform and Resolutions Committee

Chair, 2018-2020 SREC Legislative Priorities Committee

Chair, 2014-2016 SREC Resolutions Committee

SREC SD7, 2012-2020 (term-limited)

281-787-5006 cell/text

mark@ramseyweb.com

+++

Vanessa Trejo

Self

Mansfield, TX

My name is Vanessa Trejo and I oppose House Bill Anti Abortion Bill. Abortion should be open to anyone who wants to get one. Abortion is healthcare and it's a woman's right that we should have. The HB- 1515 6-week ban is unconstitutional because most abortions can't even happen at 6 weeks. Abortion is a right that ALL woman should have and we have the right to make our OWN decisions about OUR body. I oppose this bill because is taking away woman's basic rights.

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Cindy Fulmer

Self

Katy, TX

Thank you for this opportunity for my voice to be heard. I made a choice to have an abortion a long time ago that has affected every area of my life. I was 19 at the time and fell in love with my ex-husband( boyfriend at the time), got pregnant and thought about keeping it but it wasn't the right time. after all. it's not a baby, it's just matter, a blob or so that's what society,government and doctors were saying. I never went to a doctor so how would I ever heard a heartbeat? I went on to have the abortion, and it was very horrifying and it was clear I was just a number. My life changed that day because I killed a part of myself, my baby. Yes a baby! Abortion is murder, plain and simple! You think you are saving lives but women are still having abortions because you leave yourselves wiggle room to not enforce these bills. In Psalms 139:13 ,15,16 You(God) made all the delicate inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. You(God) watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You(God) saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book, every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. So, In light of this truth, a baby is a life before conception. So, I ask that you would please throw out the pro-life bills and here HB 3326 to abolish abortion in Texas.

Susan Peloquin

Self - Retired relocation consultant/substitute teacher

New Braunfels, TX

Please pass the Texas Heartbeat Bill this session! As a sidewalk advocate, this is one of the most important bills (both SB 8 & HB 1515) that has ever come before the Texas Legislature. Republicans dropped the ball on this in 2019 but this needs to pass in THIS legislative session! For the world over, a heartbeat denotes life and this bill will go far to help defeat (hopefully soon ) Roe v Wade at the national level. Those that say they are pro life should not vote no or abstain, we are WATCHING! This Heartbeat Bill is written to deal with the objections that other state heartbeat bills have seen. It is time for Texas to do the right thing for life, for innocent babies and their mothers.

Samantha Cox

Self

Port Arthur, TX

Greetings,' Thank you for taking your time to read and consider my comment. I am testifying against this bill and other "pro-life" bills like it. (HB1515) Being able to detect a baby's heartbeat should never be considered a reason for keeping or not keeping your baby. It is easy for a medical practitioner and patient who are bent on having their baby murdered to "not see/hear" the baby's heartbeat. I am currently pregnant. I was able to hear a heartbeat at 8 weeks of pregnancy, but that didn't make my baby less of a human before then. Scientifically, we are humans from conception. I am not giving birth to a giraffe, pig, or dog. I am having a human. Religiously it is also wrong. Jeremiah 1:5, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you; I ordained you a prophet to the nations." By allowing abortions at any point, you are disobeying God. To be even clearer is this, "Thou Shalt Not Murder". By allowing murder you are not fulfilling your Romans 13 responsibility of bearing the sword against the evildoer. You have abdicated your God given authority. However, there is a bill that would abolish human abortion for good. This bill is called HB3326. Not only would this bill end abortion in the state of Texas, it would also give babies equal protection under the law. Babies do not deserve to die for the sins of their parents. Instead of supporting a bill with no teeth and the inability to stop abortion, why don't you support a bill that would grant equal protection for the unborn? Instead of continuing the sacrifice of babies on our soil, instead of allowing the blood of the innocent to cry to God, we could end abortion now. You have the authority to end abortion in Texas, making it the first to make such a step. Not that long ago Texans were brave enough to draw a line in the sand, are you still brave enough to make this step? Thank you for your time.

Elizabeth Harper

Montgomery County, Texas

Conroe, TX

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Good day,

I respectfully request you vote against the heartbeat bill and opt instead for the complete abolition of abortion in our great state. ALL lives matter - even the unborn! This population is the most vulnerable as they have no voice.

With regard,  
Elizabeth Harper

Soraya Dadras  
Whole Woman's Health Alliance  
Austin, TX

My name is Soraya Dadras, MPH, and I am a Clinic Director at Whole Woman's Health Alliance (WWHA). I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1515 because it's an extreme and unconstitutional bill that would ban abortion after 6 week gestation without the exception for incest or rape. This bill would push the option to obtain an abortion out of reach for most Texans since most people aren't aware that they're pregnant before 6 weeks.

Bills like this are being promoted by anti-abortion groups across the U.S. in an attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade. If this bill is enacted and enforced it would become one of the most extreme and harmful abortion bans in the country. It would place both medical and logistical burdens on Texans - they would have to determine they're pregnant, schedule an appointment, possibly arrange for childcare and time off from work all before the 6-week deadline, which would be extremely difficult for most people and impossible for many. Because of this, top medical professionals like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) oppose 6-week abortion bans.

What makes this bill even more harmful is that it allows for anyone to sue abortion providers or anyone who helps someone obtain an abortion. This would expose providers up to the harassing lawsuits of anti-abortion individuals or organizations. This bill is not about protecting public health, it's about banning abortions at all costs. Lawmakers should be working to pass legislation that expands Medicaid, provides relief during this pandemic, or address one of the highest Black mortality rates in the country. Instead, they're looking to criminalize top medical professionals for providing patients a safe and effective service. Texans deserve better.

Bills like this one have been passed in other states and have been blocked by the courts. It for these reasons that I oppose House Bill 1515.

Frank Holman  
Self  
Austin, TX

I am in favor of this Bill and request a vote to send it to the House Floor.

Christy Martinez  
Self, homeschooling mother  
McAllen, TX

I'm praying for wisdom and courage for all those involved in protecting and upholding the sanctity of life, particularly the vulnerable unborn.

Plamena Petrova Petrova  
self

League City, TX  
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Oppose!

Dana Epley

Self

Houston, TX

Oppose

Rachel Pothier

Self

Plano, TX

My name is Rachel Pothier and I oppose House Bill 1515.

Women should have the right to all healthcare options, including legal and safe abortions. Women should be allowed to make decisions about their own bodies and healthcare whenever they like, without being penalized.

HB 1515 would ban abortion after six weeks, before most women even realize they're pregnant. Many medical experts oppose these six week abortion bans, which have been struck down in every state where they have been passed. HB 1515 would also create many harassing and frivolous lawsuits against doctors, who should be spending their time helping Texas citizens, rather than being told off for performing necessary and life-saving medical procedures in court.

Abortion access is personally important to me, as I am a young woman who believes in the right of every woman to make their own medical decisions, especially pertaining to abortion and their own bodily autonomy. The government should not be allowed to regulate individual bodies and healthcare on this level, it's unconstitutional.

I urge you to reject this bill. Abortion is a necessary and life saving procedure that allows women to have control over their own health and lives that should not be restricted or taken away by any governmental body.

Billy O'Dell

40 Days for Life Denton

Sanger, TX

On average, more than 155 children are murdered by abortion every day in our state.

In spite of this horrific reality, the pro-life bills currently making progress through our legislature this session would take steps toward equal protection of our laws. I hope and pray that God would use you to help abolish abortion in our state. This Heartbeat bill is a step closer to humanizing children in the womb. It shows that children have a heart beat as early as 16 days after conception. They are alive and they deserve to be protected.

The legislative priority of the Republican Party of Texas calls upon this legislature to "Abolish abortion by ensuring the right to life and equal protection of the laws to all pre-born children from the moment of fertilization."

I believe this is of the utmost importance that HB 1515 see a full vote by the the house. These bills are to important to not send them for a vote. We can't stand by and watch Children die. Let our representatives vote to determine the future of our state and how we will treat our most vulnerable. There are many other options to abortion, but killing can never be the way to handle an unplanned pregnancy. I am personally involved in helping organizations that actually help women in need. Lets get rid of abortion all together, but this is one step to make that happen. Thank you.

Brandi Trevino

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Self

Katy, TX

Oppose

Jillian Lopiano, Dr

Whole Woman's Health

Fort Worth, TX

My name is Dr. Jillian Lopiano, MD, MPH, FACOG and I am the Texas Medical Director at Whole Woman's Health. I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1515 because it's an extreme and unconstitutional bill that would ban abortion after 6 weeks gestation without the exception for incest or rape. This bill would push the option to obtain an abortion out of reach for most Texans since most people aren't aware that they're pregnant before 6 weeks.

Bills like this are being promoted by anti-abortion groups across the U.S. in an attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade. If this bill is enacted and enforced it would become one of the most extreme and harmful abortion bans in the country. It would place both medical and logistical burdens on Texans - they would have to determine they're pregnant, schedule an appointment, possibly arrange for childcare and time off from work all before the 6-week deadline, which would be extremely difficult for most people and impossible for many. Because of this, top medical professionals like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) oppose 6-week abortion bans.

What makes this bill even more harmful is that it allows for anyone to sue abortion providers or anyone who helps someone obtain an abortion. This would expose providers up to the harassing lawsuits of anti-abortion individuals or organizations. This bill is not about protecting public health, it's about banning abortions at all costs. Lawmakers should be working to pass legislation that expands Medicaid, provides relief during this pandemic, or address one of the highest Black mortality rates in the country. Instead, they're looking to criminalize top medical professionals for providing patients a safe and effective service. Texans deserve better.

Bills like this one have been passed in other states and have been blocked by the courts. It for these reasons that I oppose House Bill 1515.

Victoria Castaneda

Self

Garland, TX

My name is Victoria I oppose House Bill HB 1515.I think that it is wrong for politicians to make decisions about my life and my body. Do not pass this bill

Barbara Dearman

Self

Plano, TX

Oppose

Lisa Ewing

self homemaker

Montgomery, TX

I support this bill. A child is a child, living, whether in or out of the womb, and should be protected as any other human life is in

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this country.

Courtney Chambers

self

Austin, TX

My name is Courtney Chambers, MPH and I oppose HB 1515. Bills that limit or ban abortion are cruel and dangerous. Most people do not even know they are pregnant by 6 weeks, approximately when the fetal heart tone is first detected. This bill is an attempt to ban abortion and it's cruel, dangerous, bad for public health, and a violation of constitutional rights.

Stephanie Villanueva

self - public health graduate student

Cypress, TX

My name is Stephanie Villanueva (she/her), and I oppose House Bill 1515. I personally oppose this bill because I have an undergraduate degree in Public Health, and I currently am a graduate student pursuing my Master of Public Health (MPH) degree at UTHealth School of Public Health. I want to make it clear to the Texas Legislature that abortion is healthcare, therefore I would like to express my opposition to HB 1515. I am against this anti-abortion bill. I care about abortion access, because this is a medical decision that should be decided between the patient and the doctor, not by legislators. I urge you all to reject this legislation.

Sandra Alexander

Self - prayer partner

Midlothian, TX

Let me urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

Stephen Sequeira, Mr.

Self (database report analyst)

Salado, TX

Please support HB 1515. It is (or should be) common sense that a human child with a beating heart should not be killed.

Amelia Long

Self, nonprofit employee

Austin, TX

I am a Texan against HB 1515. Abortion is healthcare. Bills like this are harmful to public health and they are just plain immoral. Don't do this to Texas.

Shawn Troxell, Ms

Self

New Braunfels, TX

To whomever reads this:

I am very much against HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218 and HB 3760. My representative, knows my opinion.

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He believes, like the supporters of these bills, that their religious beliefs should be forced upon all of us.

They believe life begins at conception. Science proves it does not.

Therefore, these bills cannot become laws because they infringe upon my rights. There can be no using religion to make a law. Don't you agree?

In denying women the right to choose you are condemning many of us to a harder life, with more obstacles, often shamed as a single mother, unable to find a good paying job and hours that work while also raising a child.

It seems to me that you simply don't care about us.

What I do to my body is not your choice.

NOT your choice.

The choice is mine.

You must not allow these bills up for discussion, much less a vote. Too many men, too many religious men, too many white old religious men simply cannot be allowed to debate a woman's right to choose.

I'm not alone in my anger over these bills.

So I will be watching what's happening and sharing with my family, friends, and former students.

Sonya Featherston

Self, homemaker

Austin, TX

I, respectfully, state that abortion is murder and I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion through heart beat bills and the like, which are not equal protection for all the unborn, but supposedly only protection for some. Furthermore, the babies that these regulation bills appear to protect, in reality do not protected at all because the abortion clinic will not enforce these laws, but only pretend to ad here to these new regulations on murder. You shall not govern murder.

Many have given up their lives or risked their life to protect the lives of others. I respectfully ask this committee to protect the lives of the unborn, not with something that sounds like it will help, but with a bill such as HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas

The "pro life bills" such as a heartbeat bill etc... that you think are "good bills" are not going to be enforced inside an abortion clinic. Even if followed somewhat, which is highly doubtful, they do not save any of the babies that are in the pre heart beat development stage which is still a baby. The law should protect everyone equally, so a law that is not equal protection is not good law. This means that babies pre heart beat are being treated in the abortion clinic like the Jews in the Nazi era which was dispensable. The Nazi's hated the children the most because they were considered a drain on resources. Jewish children were murdered in the concentration camps

Child Euthanasia (German: Kinder-Euthanasie) was the name given to the organized murder of severely mentally and physically handicapped children and young people up to 16 years old during the Nazi era in over 30 so-called special children's wards. At least 5,000 children were victims of the program, which was a precursor to the subsequent murder of children in the concentration camps.

Harriet Tubman said if you see a snake don't "wound it kill it". The Republican Party has set in its platform to end abortion but you are attempting to regulate it. You have been misled and are lured by people with good entensions into a false reasoning that this will actually bring help to some of the dying babies but Texas needs to pass an equal justice for all bill such as HB3326.

Thank you, Sonya Featherston

Gyla Fowler, Ms

Gyla Fowler

Austin, TX

Women need access to safe, affordable abortions. Abortion care is health care. Leave our healthcare alone. Nothing like a bunch of white men making decisions for women about their bodies.

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Marisa Downey  
Self and Secretary  
Cibolo, TX

Greetings Texas House Public Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing to you on the behalf of the many unborn American citizens being killed by abortion. I implore you to immediately discard the continued regulation of abortion and to please schedule a hearing for HB 3326 which would abolish abortion in Texas.

Our U.S. Constitution Section 1 of the 14th Amendment should provide protection for an unborn child as it does for any born child. No individual or state has the right to deprive another individual of their life without the proper due process. Every life is sovereign and should be protected and valued.

May God guide and bless this committee.

Marisa Downey, BAS

Renee Roth  
Self  
Tyler, TX

Oppose

Bettie Forman  
Bettie Forman  
Austin, TX

strongly oppose!

Julie Grimstad, Mrs.  
Healthcare Advocacy & Leadership Org.  
Bedford, TX

I support this bill. However, I am concerned that all babies, whatever stage of gestation, should be protected.

Jeri Saper, Mrs  
Self - Business Owner  
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. Women have a right to make decisions about their own bodies.

Isabelle Headrick  
self, student  
Austin, TX

I oppose this as a dangerous and unlawful attack on the human rights of women, on religious freedom, and on medical privacy. This is a Christian supremacist and male supremacist bill.

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Kim Kahn  
Ncjlw  
Austin, TX

Putting a women's health before that of her unborn fetus is a fundamental belief of my Jewish faith.  
I therefore implore you not to pass this prohibitive bill.

Ann Evers  
Abolish Abortion Texas  
Stafford, TX

Please bring Pro-Life bill HB3326 to the floor. Please protect our preborn Children. I pray  
That God will be with you to do the right thing.  
May God be with you all.  
Ann Evers

Cat Yuracka, Mrs  
Self  
San Marcos, TX

I oppose this attempt to restrict women's rights to manage their own healthcare. Republicans are always saying the "big government" needs to stay out of citizens' personal lives...even to the point of not having governmental regulations where they are needed for the protection of the citizenry. Please keep "big government" out of the discussions that should be between women and their doctors and my families, and the decisions that belong to women alone.

Branda Thomas  
Decatur Matting and Framing  
Decatur, TX

I am strongly in favor of passing this bill.

Vianey Reyes, Ms.  
Self as Private Citizen  
EL PASO, TX

Abortions are going to happen whether you want them to be safe or not. Women (and people who menstruate) will try to make the best-educated decision for their life. This is a tantrum against the autonomy of women in a form of a bill. Stop trying to force births onto people. Stop trying to create unnecessary and moot litigation onto the court systems just to justify your ill intentions. Abortion is not a group decision between the pregnant person and the people who are trying to control her actions.

Kendall Bentsen  
self, Organizer  
Houston, TX

If Texas law prohibits abortion after detection of pulsing cells in an embryo, then it takes no stretch of the imagination to see how the state could prosecute women for the outcomes of their pregnancies.

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No pregnant person can guarantee a healthy birth outcome: 15-20% of all pregnancies end in a miscarriage or a stillbirth. How will the Texas Legislature differentiate a medical abortion caused by Mifepristone-Misoprostol from a “spontaneous abortion” (i.e. miscarriage)? This bill will open the door for pregnant women to be held criminally responsible for their pregnancy outcomes. A pregnant woman could face criminal prosecution for every action and inaction that is believed by her partner, law enforcement, or prosecutors to result in a miscarriage or stillbirth, even if she intended to go to term.

Criminalizing someone for their pregnancy outcome also undermines the doctor-patient relationship and deters pregnant women from obtaining prenatal care. Intended or not, this legislation will further promote state surveillance to police pregnancy and will keep pregnant women from being honest with their providers. Passing legislation that causes pregnant women to be scared off from prenatal care doesn't just hurt the pregnant woman, it hurts her baby and family.

I strongly oppose this bill. Whether intended this way or not, it amounts to nothing more than a thinly veiled attempt to further entrench hostility towards pregnant women into Texas law. Rather than further curtailing access to abortion, the Texas legislature should focus on the true threats to women and infant health, including quality healthcare access, intimate partner violence, and maternal mortality, of which Texas ranks in the top 20% in the country. If you really value life, value the people who create life.

Beverly Roberts, Mrs.

Texas Values

Houston, TX

Without the right to be born, all other rights are void. Protect defenseless unborn citizens. Support this bill!

eileen Ladd

NCJW

Austin, TX

The government should stay out of a woman's health decisions

autumn keiser

self. Director of marketing and communications

Austin, TX

What is the endgame of this kind of legislation? May I now sue my boyfriend for choosing a vasectomy 10 years before our relationship because I have decided I want to have a child now? Can I sue my mother to prevent her from ceasing chemotherapy when her doctors have informed her the medical benefits have run out and would only extend her life slightly with pain and discomfort she would otherwise avoid? May you sue me if I refuse to provide a bone marrow transplant to your dying child if you know that I am a match? The truth is that this bill has nothing to do with preserving life, allowing life to develop, or extending the life of another human. It is specifically to control the choices of a pregnant person and her healthcare provider. It violates our privacy, liberty, health, happiness, and is often life-threatening. You know this. You have the research before you and compelling testimony from patients and experts that the damage of preventing women from terminating a pregnancy when she needs to is significant. **ONLY WOMEN** are vulnerable to the dangers of pregnancy. In any other legal precedent, an especially vulnerable population would receive **MORE** protection and latitude to navigate that vulnerability. Instead, the authors and supporters of this bill are doing the opposite. I oppose HB 1515

Marsha Strongin

Self, attorney

Austin, TX

A woman should have the sole right to determine what happens to her body. Legislation should not limit those rights.

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Ray Williams

Self, Juvenile Probation Officer

Nolanville, TX

I oppose HB1515 and any other so called "pro-life" bill being discussed today that fails to provide equal protection under the law as required by our constitution under the 14th amendment. HB1515 and these other bills are immoral and unjust because they merely regulate the murder of preborn human beings instead of putting an end to it. About fifty thousand preborn human babies are unjustly murdered in Texas every year. The Republican Party of Texas has held and retained a trifecta since 2003 precisely because many voters like me helped put them in office with the understanding that they share our values and would seek to protect our preborn neighbors by working to end child sacrifice in our state. That is why I'm urging you to oppose this bill and others like it and to support bills like HB3326, the Abolition of Abortion in Texas bill, filed by Representative Bryan Slaton, which is the only bill this legislative session that does what our Republican Party Platform calls for by ignoring Roe and putting end to abortion now in Texas and by providing the same equal protection under the law that we enjoy to our preborn neighbors. Thank you!

Marga Matthews

Self

Baytown, TX

I support this bill HB1515, relating to abortion after detection of an unborn child heartbeat, authorizing a private civil right of action.

Sharon Krumholz

self, retired

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, as it is unconstitutional and it goes against the teachings and practice of the Jewish faith.

Nina Nikolova

self

League city, TX

Oppose

Ashlee Dunlap

Self, behavior therapist

Frisco, TX

The fact that the State of Texas is attempting to intervene with a medical procedure is a direct violation of freedom and privacy. Since when did Texas want a more involved and large government? Since when was the Republican Party the party of control? The party of invading its citizens privacy and freedoms? It is extremely hypocritical and also morally wrong to attempt to dictate medical decisions relating to pregnancy. If pregnancy is covered by health insurance, it is a medical issue. Therefore, policy makers who have never had a personal pregnancy should certainly not hold any weight in a citizens decision. Religiously influenced decisions should also be completely absent from legislative decisions. It is one thing to base decisions on a grouping of peer reviewed research from experts who attended ~10 years of collegiate education. It's another to base decisions on a personal belief and lifestyle. Christianity is a choice. So is abortion. Albeit different types of choices, neither should be interfered with. Religion and medical decisions are two things no government should interfere with. If any of you can actually tell me what Hyperemesis Gravidarum is, I might consider listening to what you have to say. But the truth is, there are so many pregnancy

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complications that they could never be listed in a bill, in a Facebook post, in this comment, or an article. Any bill restricting abortion will always fall short on protecting the woman.

Imagine your sister, wife, or mother getting pregnant and being elated. In a world where all abortions are illegal. Something goes wrong and she has a spontaneous abortion, also known as a miscarriage. She now is legally allowed to be investigated as a murderer because she has a miscarriage. Something already traumatizing being made worse just so the government can make sure that she didn't do it on purpose. This is what y'all are setting up for women to experience by introducing these laws. You don't actually care about women's trauma. Otherwise, you would understand that trauma experiences are subjective and that what you're doing causes just as much trauma. You care about making medical decisions that you have no educational background for. Additionally, by requiring this law, you are only allowing a maximum of 2 weeks for an individual to assess whether they have missed a period, to take pregnancy tests, schedule and have an abortion. At 4 weeks is when one typically expects a period, "heartbeat" is detected at 6. (Even though the 4 chamber heart isn't even remotely developed at this point). In all of this, you're ALSO discriminating against people who have irregular periods. Which is actually extremely common in those with thyroid or hormonal issues, athletes, or those experiencing excessive stress. That's a lot of women that y'all don't care about. It's almost like y'all have no real clue about the complexities of the female reproductive system or biology whatsoever.

Connie Haham, Ms

NCJW

Austin, TX

I strongly object to bills meant to criminalize or otherwise limit a woman's choice to have an abortion. Access to abortion in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy should be open to all, with no qualifications. A woman who aborts a fetus should never face questions, intimidation or penalty of any sort. Nor should any qualified medical professional who performs an abortion. Please retract this bill. Women should never again be put in the position they were in before Roe vs Wade, and lawmakers should not infuse their legislation with their private convictions, particularly those not widely consented to in society. I remember when classmates disappeared from my life in the 1960s and returned with babies they were too young to care for. Would that they had the options that were later available. Do not subject our daughters and granddaughters to your beliefs. In turn, no one will insist that your wives, your daughters have abortions if they do not wish to. It is called choice and respect for personhood.

Lisa Tolhurst

self/RN

Dickinson, TX

Oppose

Merle Dover

n/a

Austin, TX

A woman's decisions about her own healthcare, including abortion, are her constitutional right. This bill will effectively be an unconstitutional ban on abortion. I am vehemently OPPOSED!

Carolina Vaughn

Self

Houston, TX

My dear committee members,

I would like to urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Abortion is the taking of a human life, the act is as simple as that, and I understand the complications that almost always surround abortion, but like every human life, the life the unborn deserves respect and protection

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and preservation. Please stop treating the unborn as less than human, but rather protect the unborn. I urge you, as the committee, to protect the life of your future Americans, and abolish abortion in Texas.

Thank you for your service to the people of Texas,

Carolina

Abigail Gervais

Self, Homemaker

Canyon Lake, TX

Hello Chairwoman and Committee members! Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the bills being heard today. HB 1515 does not protect human lives before a heartbeat is detected. In today's world, many women use at-home abortion pills to abort their children without getting an ultrasound or seeing a doctor. This bill may save some lives, but will not uphold every human's right to life. Even if this bill passes into law, there will still be abortion in Texas.

I just wanted to urge the Chair to allow HB 3326 (the abolition of abortion act) to move forward in the legislature. Please give the bill a hearing. It is the only pro-ALL lives bill that will truly end abortion. Please don't allow another 2 years to slip by before legislative progress can be made on ending all baby murder in our great state. Thanks again!

Deborah Roberson

Self- mental healthcare practitioner

Pflugerville, TX

I am in OPPOSITION to this bill. It is a set back in a women's right to reproductive freedom.  
Do NOT sign this bill!

Lynn Krasnow

Self

Austin, TX

Vote NO. Respect a woman's right to make decisions on these issues in conjunction with her religious beliefs, her family, and her doctor.

Betty Taylor

self

BROWNWOOD, TX

This bill is not enforceable, and does not provide equal protection for life in the womb. Please instead support HB 3326. Thank you.

Betty Taylor, 4414 Rosewood Drive, Brownwood, Tx 76801

James Apple

Self

Kemah, TX

Against

Kathy Turner

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self, retired

McGregor, TX

Although my personal preference would be for outright and immediate abolition of abortion, I support this bill as it will save the lives of preborn Texans and urge you to report it favorably out of committee promptly. Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill.

Brittany Greece

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

My name is Brittany Greece and I oppose House Bill 1515. Abortion access should be available with no restrictions. Abortion is healthcare.

Jerry Rubli

Self, real Estate Agent

Spring, TX

Please get this bill out of committee.

Jerry

Cassandra Duenas

Self

El Paso, TX

Regarding any abortion restrictions it's a cruel and unconstitutional on any citizens right to decide what to do with their body. You can put any restriction but abortions will never end you will just be making it more dangerous and harder for women to do but it will never be gone. You have no right to dictate what a women's choice is to do with her genitals.

Shari Davis, MS

NCJW

Austin, TX

Oppose

Anne Grinols

self retired

Waco, TX

If a heartbeat is detected, there is life. All life should be protected. While we wait for abortion to be vanquished, we must act to save every life. Please pass this bill.

fred campbell, Physician

UT Health San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TX

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As a physician, I oppose this bill in that it is unlawful under current Federal law

Kevin Price

Secular Democrats of Texas

Galveston, TX

Oppose

Wendi Hammond

Self

Plano, TX

I am opposed to HB 1515 by Slawson. Women's healthcare choices should not be threatened by civil penalties. A bill that harms half the population is simply wrong. It is unconstitutional, unconscionable and an infringement on religious freedom. There are much better ways to encourage women to safely and economically choose to carry a pregnancy to term. For example, the State of Texas should provide paid parental leave, paid childcare and free birth control. This bill unnecessarily invades the private realm between woman and doctor regarding the women's healthcare choices. The State should not unilaterally dictate the health decisions for a woman's uterus. The entire committee and legislature should oppose this bill.

Isabella Duran

Self - college student

Austin, TX

HB 1515 should not be passed into Texas law. These bills are only put into action to prevent people from getting the healthcare they need. The majority of Texans believe that there should be better abortion access in Texas, not less. This bill will lead to unsafe "backalley" abortions and end up killing people who need one. Banning abortions doesn't prevent them, it just makes them more unsafe. If you want to decrease the number of abortions in Texas, then pass bills that expands comprehensive sexual education and health insurance with contraception so less people will get pregnant and need an abortion. Don't pass this law. Expand abortion access and care instead, and help the people of Texas.

Henry Anderson

Self

Austin, TX

Why is the my states government so focused on being this intrusive into people's lives.

Please vote no against this in the hopes this does not get brought back up again, leave those women alone they are obviously going through a lot.

Elaine Bernstein, Ms

self

Dallas, TX

This bill is as bad as all the others. The government has no place in this very private decision between a women her partner and her doctor. A women does not even know she is pregnant at 6 weeks. Further the bringing of a civil action would only clog the court system. One in four women will have an abortion in their lifetime. These bills will not stop abortions. They will only stop the safe ones. Further these bills are an affront to my Religion. As a Jewish women my religion's position is life does not begin until first breath, so there is no child to protect until it is born. While in the womb it is considered water.

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Esther Sung  
self - attorney  
Houston, TX

The Senate State Affairs Committee should stop this crusade against women and fundamental health care. Since 2010, between 100,000 and 240,000 Texas women have attempted to induce their own abortions due to the state's onerous abortion laws. By so drastically reducing the availability of abortion, this bill does not protect life; it endangers it. I am incredibly discouraged that the Texas legislature considers the lives and health of Texas women to be so disposable and unworthy of protection. At the very least, it is heartless and cruel to ban abortion after a heartbeat is detectable with no exception for rape or incest. This bill is out of line with what most Texans believe and want for themselves and their daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts, and cousins. Why is the legislature working to pass a ban on abortion instead of passing legislation to reform our electric grid and provide pandemic relief? What is wrong with your priorities?

Elizabeth Graham  
Texas RTL  
Bellaire, TX

Please pass! Thank you.

C Campbell  
self retired  
Austin, TX

IF A HEARTBEAT INDICATES HUMAN LIFE, THEN THE WOMEN SHOULD BE CHARGED WITH MURDER OF A MINOR. BE CONSISTENT IF YOU are going to condemn women then you may as well lock them up. If a woman takes a drink of alcohol or smokes a cigarette are you going to charge her with child endangerment? If a store owner or bartender sells them alcohol or tobacco or you going to charge them? How big are you going to build the prisons? What about the man are you going to do DNA testing and charge him?

Adrian Metzger  
self  
Luling, TX

I support this bill. This is the least we can do. I can't think of any creature that we do not consider alive once its heart starts beating...except a human child.

Nancy Mayers  
self retired  
Austin, TX

It is a woman's choice as to having an abortion or not. It is a fetus until it is born and then becomes a child with designated rights. Are you going to adopt the unwanted child and generously provide for it's future? Do you want a child to be born unloved and then abused for it's lifetime?

Allison Smith  
self, University Student  
College Station, TX

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Absolutely disgusting how this state continues to attack our rights to reproductive healthcare. There is NO scientific or legitimate reasoning for this legislation to exist outside of warped, twisted, unethical biases within our state government.

Ashley Leach, Houston

Self

Houston, TX

Please abolish continued regulation of abortion in Texas and consider HB3326

Jennifer Fowler, Mrs.

AATX

Hutto, TX

Please amend this bill to give equal protection to all Texans, both born and unborn by abolishing abortion completely....just like we did slavery! Our state would be blessed for ending this egregious practice that has only been regulated with our “pro-life” laws for 48 years.

Blessings,

Jennifer

Katherine McGovern

self

Dallas, TX

HB 1515: Bans abortion at 6 weeks. Allows anyone in Texas to be sued for 'aiding and abetting' in abortion care, including doctors, abortion funds and even a patient's loved ones who support their decision. Texas is supposed to be a Democracy and part of the United States of America. Since when is it in the State of Texas' governmental interest to intrude on the private medical personal decision of a woman to terminate her pregnancy? It is not! This Bill is an attack on every Texas woman's ability to stand equal under the law. Vote NO!

Jessica Moreno

self, LCSW

Austin, TX

My name is Jessica Moreno and I write to oppose House Bill1515. For over 15 years I too have worked as a public servant for nonprofits serving women, children, and teens to address domestic and sexual violence in our state. Too often I've witnessed cases of coercion and rape that led to unintended pregnancies, and we know that pregnancy in can elevate violence in the context of a domestic violence relationship. To pass HB1515 would not only put women's lives at more risk, it would also force women to keep pregnancies at a time when many of their rights have already been violated. Keeping a pregnancy should never be your choice as legislators; it should always be an individual's choice.

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. To jump through these hoops after a sexual assault, or while in an abusive relationship is even more unrealistic.

HB 1515 also creates frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care by creating a cause of action that would allow anyone to sue both a doctor who performs an abortion and also anyone who “aids or abets” the performance of an abortion. As an clinical social worker, I too would be at risk for helping a client access an abortion after an

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unintended pregnancy from assault, yet doing anything differently would be against my personal and professional values of client autonomy.

HB 1515 is unconstitutional and has been struck down in every state where it was passed. Zero states are currently enforcing similar 6-week bans, because of court challenges. This bill will open our state up to expensive and time consuming legal challenges, and as a taxpayer this is not where I want funds spent.

Medical experts, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists oppose 6-week abortion bans. Women and medical experts have the lived experiences and education to provide recommendations on reproductive care, NOT legislators. It has been devastating to see my representatives chose to focus on divisive, personal views by passing this stream of anti-abortion bills rather than on issues that impact us all and need real attention like the welfare and education of the children that are already in this world. I write today to urge you to stop these harmful anti-abortion bills and leave choice where it belongs - the person who's uterus is impacted.

Warren Harris

self

Dallas, TX

I think it is an abomination that a legislature comprised predominantly of conservative men has any business at all regulating women's reproductive rights. It is none of your business. Stay out of it. I guarantee at the next election I will be doing everything I can to get every possible Democrat to the polls to vote out anyone trying to limit women's rights in any way whatsoever.

Laura Payet

Self - legal writer

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 1515. This bill is a dangerous and extreme measure that will prevent most women from having abortions, because few women even know they're pregnant at 6 weeks. It doesn't advance women's health, is unconstitutional, and thus far has been struck down in every state that's enacted it. Texans have bigger problems and deserve more from our legislature than this ridiculous, forced-birth grandstanding.

Eva Bonilla

Self

Fort Worth, TX

This is between God and woman not for men to decide.

Christopher Youngblood

Self, Salesman.

LIBERTY HILL, TX

Thank you for your time and attention today.

My name is Christopher Youngblood and I am a husband and father of 5 testifying today in opposition to HB 1515.

I am an abolitionist and I want to urge you today to reject these bills which only regulate and delay the end of abortion and fail to abolish it as the grave injustice that it is.

The laws you craft in this committee and that we have as a state are a tutor and a guide to the citizens in our state about what is

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right and what is wrong.

Sadly the Texas Heartbeat Act before you today discriminates against preborn persons who do not yet have a detectable heartbeat, this concedes our belief that life begins at conception while attempting to comply with an unconstitutional and immoral court decision.

These bills continue a sad tradition of treating abortion as another industry to be regulated and controlled. For too long our laws have guided our citizens that killing the unborn is permissible, just maybe not if it has a heartbeat or if you are killing the child because of a disability.

We need to stop trying to appease a supreme court which has already blatantly overstepped its proper jurisdiction.

We need to stop making excuses about why we cannot stand up to the court and protect our own citizens.

I respectfully submit that Texans are tired of hearing how “pro-life” politicians are without actually seeing backbone which demonstrates that belief.

If we are not willing to defy an unconstitutional court ruling for this issue, then what will we fight for?

Remember that this is not just an ordinary policy debate and we need to stop treating it as such. The cost is too great.

More than 55,000 babies are murdered in our state every year and these bills fail to stop this tragedy.

As Texans we pride ourselves as frequent enemies of the “establishment in Washington”, yet where is that same passion for the unborn in our state?

I urge you to be willing to defy Roe despite the cost.

I urge you to lay aside the failed strategies of the past decades and truly treat this issue with the courage it deserves

I urge you to be willing to do the unpopular thing but yet the just and righteous thing on this issue.

I urge you as magistrates to fulfill your duty to protect all the citizens in your charge and abolish abortion.

Finally, I urge you to reject these bills and instead consider the true bill of abolition which is in this committee and which provides equal protection under the law for all unborn Texans.

Thank you for your time today

Matt Lenington

Self

SAGINAW, TX

I support HB 1515, 1280, 2337, 2313, 3218 and 3760 ending the murder of unborn babies.

Sarah Payet

Self, Student

Austin, TX

You are truly, and I say this with as much venom as possible, a reprehensible human being.

Jill Robbins

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Self

Holland, TX

This bill does not give equal protection to all unborn persons. When does a child receive a soul? At a detectable heartbeat? Ridiculous! Give us a bill of abolish like the majority of delegates ask for.

Ricardo Martinez

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Honorable Committee Members - My name is Ricardo and I oppose House Bill HB 1515. Everyone deserves the right to bodily autonomy. This bill is an unconstitutional, near total ban on abortion that creates a civil cause of action that allows anyone, regardless of whether or not they were connected to the abortion patient, to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation of any abortion restriction. I trust individuals to make the appropriate health care decisions for themselves without government interference. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Nancy Hoxworth

self

Belton, TX

Life is sacred, caused by God. Conception is the beginning of human life, not me the detection of a heartbeat

Patricia Paquette, RN,BS,OCN

Self

Katy, TX

Abortion is healthcare. I oppose the gross governmental over-reach of this bill. Decisions about when & if to become pregnant and carry a fetus to term belong to the pregnant person and their qualified healthcare providers. The personal OPINIONS of legislators are not facts, science, welcomed, or needed. This bill should not move forward. It seeks to force personal beliefs of a very few people upon all Texans.

BRIAN SANDLER

BLM, NAACP, SPLC

Arlington, TX

I have friends and family who desperately want to get pregnant who suffered unviable fetuses midway through. Forcing women to carry these to term would be despicable. How about instead supporting better sex education and access to contraceptives to limit unwanted pregnancies and increasing access to healthcare to try to prevent fetal issues that result in unwanted terminations? Do something that's actually effective and helpful for people.

Tonya Cauduro

Self - Small Business Owner

Lewisville, TX

I oppose House Bill 1515 because women must have the right to choose what happens to their own bodies. Please reject this legislation!

Barbara Baruch

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Women- NCJW-SA

San Antonio, TX

What does the Committee intend to do about all of the unwanted children this bill will produce. Government has no business in a woman's private decisions with her doctor and her family. Why do you pay attention to anti-maskers, and anti-vaxers but ignore the overwhelming number of women who support the right of a woman to control her own body?

Nida Ahmed

Self

Houston, TX

It's so funny to me how

1) this site is ass so I can't even add all of the fucked up ass abortion bills that y'all are trying to propose bc it's taking so god damn long they won't load(:

2) HOW THE FUCK IS WEARING A MASK SOMEONES CHOICE BUT NOT FUCKING INCUBATING A CHILD IN YOUR BODY FOR NINE MONTHS YOU STUPID FUCKING PIECE OF SHIT MORONS I HOPE YOU DIE

Renee Sabel

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill would outlaw abortion at approximately six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant t. I strongly oppose this bill.

Alheli Harvey

self, doctoral student

Austin, TX

This bill represents nothing but ongoing violence and discrimination toward women by regulating their bodies in the guise of a moral argument. My infringing upon a woman's right to an abortion, her private and inalienable right to choose is undermined and undone. It is unconstitutional and makes people less free.

brian rogers

Law Office of Brian J. Rogers

Friendswood, TX

Oppose this bullshit.

Sheereen Ibtesam

Progress Texas

Fort Worth, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

Stop your unconstitutional bill nonsense.

It's women's bodies women's choices.

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Maricela Briones

Self, college student HB 1515, 1280, 2337, 2313, 3218 and 3760

Pharr, TX

Hello, I don't understand why Texas is trying to pass this law. Can you please separate religion from these laws?? Many women have abortions because they cannot take care of a child, mentally and financially they cannot.

Rachel Spires

self - unemployed

Garland, TX

Texas has revoked mask mandates in the middle of a deadly pandemic under the auspices of "your body, your choice," yet somehow this logic does not follow when I am choosing whether my body will continue an unwanted or medically-adverse pregnancy. Texas legislatures have no more business dictating what I choose with my licensed physician than they do deciding what kind of corrective lenses I can wear or whether I can volunteer for research trials. And if you are truly so concerned with the welfare of children, then you should expand Medicaid so that parents can actually get healthcare to stay alive and raise those children. Otherwise all you're fighting for is the forced birth of future orphans.

Ana Rodriguez

Self

Houston, TX

HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would ban abortion in the state when cardiac activity is detectable, typically around 6-weeks gestation, before many Texans even know they are pregnant. It takes time for someone to confirm a pregnancy and consider their options. As an abortion fund hotline volunteer, I would hear from Texans who are struggle to navigate the numerous existing restrictions on abortion in Texas. From the cost of the procedure itself, to the mandatory 24 hour waiting period, and often extensive travel required to get to a clinic that provides care, all of these barriers cause delays and would make it virtually impossible for Texans to access abortion care before 6 weeks.

Not only is extreme policy unconstitutional, it hurts Texans, and goes against Texans values.

Instead of advancing dangerous policies that deny the people of Texas health care and robs them of the freedom to make their own choices without the government interfering, lawmakers should advance policies that actually address Texans' needs.

Additionally, the creation of a civil cause of action that would allow anyone to sue an abortion provider and anyone who helped a person get an abortion for a perceived violation, whether or not they were connected to the patient or provider, would promote frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors and anyone who helps patients access care, including abortion funds and volunteers like me.

Abortion is health care and should be fully accessible to all Texans, and until every Texan can access abortion care without restriction, abortion funds like the ones I volunteer for and donate to are a vital support system for Texans navigating unnecessary and extreme barriers to health care. Everyone should be able to make their own choices about if, whether, and when to carry a pregnancy to term and become a parent without politicians or anti-abortion extremists interfering.

I urge the committee to vote against HB 1515.

Christina Gunter

Self

Coppell, TX

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As a Texas citizen I reject this extreme legislation. The time frame of this legislation makes it near impossible for a woman to receive an abortion, which is clearly the goal here. This legislation along with the other five are all oppressing women and their rights to their reproductive system. Most women don't even know they are pregnant until 6-8 weeks, if they are not actively trying to become pregnant. This legislation would give only them MAYBE two weeks to seek help and we all know that is near impossible, especially with the other 5 completely ridiculous legislations on the table currently. Only women and their doctor should be making decisions regarding abortions. Passing ANY of these legislations will take us back to a time when women were dying from not having access to LEGAL abortions. As a woman this is absolutely terrifying to me. I am married and on birth control as we do not want to have children. Pregnancy would be dangerous for me, and birth control is not 100% effective. If these legislations were to pass I would not feel safe living in the state of Texas.

Linda Nordhauser, Mrs.

NCJW

Austin, TX

x

lillian garza

self, cashier

waller, TX

Masks are "my body my choice" but women's literal bodies are not. This is disgusting and outrageous.

Kat Beam

Self

Wimberley, TX

My name is Kat and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill is not Pro-Life, it is Pro-Birth. For if life is really to be considered, you would understand a mother/fathers life is just as important, if not more than that of an zygote. As a fertile woman who could have children when she so chooses this bill impacts me directly. I want a choice, I deserve a choice and I will always have a choice. A bill such as this will force many to take actions that will undoubtedly kill or render themselves infertile. Religion has no say on my body, to use any form of religious text or belief does not warrant a lawmaker personal bias on me. I have freewill to choose when to be sexually active, to use the protection I find best for my body, including having an abortion if my birth control fails. Having an abortion three years ago has allowed me to grow into a meritorious wife, Aunt, sister and employee. I have no regrets in my decision, especially because it was done in a safe and healthy manner. Forcing this bill and removing healthy access to abortion for anyone at anytime, will create more death than life. I urge you to not sign this bill. I implore you not to sign this bill. I beseech you not to sign this bill. Please do not sign this bill.

Makayla Beam

Self

Hurst, TX

Banning abortions wont stop them from happening. Youre just making it harder for someone to receive the proper care they need in order to make a already tough decision. Dont punish the people. These decisions should not be biased on religion, they need to be biased on science. Do your research.

tori wooldridge

self

austin, TX

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Reject stricter abortion laws. This is a women's health issue and you should respect women enough to make decisions for themselves.

Abigail OConnor

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill

Amanda Ortiz

Lockheed Martin

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE banning abortion at all, regardless of pregnancy stage. As Texas has one of the highest rate of teen pregnancies, and with studies showing that when abortion is banned, self performed abortions go up, which will lead to more injuries and deaths of mothers, than if abortion is ALLOWED, Texas needs to allow abortion, or texas' girls will be finding ways to do abortions themselves with hangers. Do you want babies killed by hangers or offered real medical support. I oppose criminalization of abortion!

Hannah Margolis

National Council of Jewish Women

San Antonio, TX

truly opposed

Ling Zhu

self

Ling Zhu, Austin, TX, TX

I totally oppose this bill. Many women don't notice they are pregnant at 6 weeks. If this bill becomes law, those women will have to travel to other abortion friendly states like California or New York to get the abortion done. For women who can afford the time and expense, this bill is just a terrible annoyance. For everyone else, it is dangerous to their lives. For poor women, especially women of color, there is no good option. Carrying the unwanted fetus to term then put for adoption is in fact a 9-month "jail time" that the Government forces upon her. Or she can risk her life to do the underground abortion, like countless women have done in the past before abortion was legalized. Our state has terrible public education system. many of these unwanted babies have grown up without skills required to get good jobs, causing troubles to the society.

Mabel Terminel

Self

El Paso, TX

Opposed to this gross overreach of government authority over women's bodies and autonomy

Amy Clark

Self, consultant

Three Rivers, TX

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I would like to register my support of HB 1515 and respectfully encourage the passage of this bill out of this committee.

Kara Long

Self

Katy, TX

This bill would create frivolous lawsuits against doctors and any caregiver who tries to help a woman make a choice and would effectively make it impossible to give women any real information about their pregnancy, especially if that pregnancy threatens her life. Medical experts oppose this law, for good reason. This will cause an increase in malpractice insurance for anyone who is trying to help pregnant women. It criminalizes pregnancy, it criminalizes being a woman.

margaret burke, MX

self, venue manager

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill, for the safety of women and their health care providers.

Rebecca Bowers

Self / Accountant

Fort Worth, TX

It is a woman's right to choose what is done with her body. It is not the right of the state to dictate a human beings choices regarding their own reproduction. Just like it would not be right to dictate a man get a vasectomy.

Briana Miles

Self, Community Organizer

Sugar Land, TX

Hi my name is Briana Miles and I oppose HB 1515.

This bill is unconstitutional and would take away the rights of millions of individuals across the state. HB 1515 is an extreme and dangerous bill that would outright ban abortion in the state before many Texans even know they are pregnant, as early as six weeks into a pregnancy. Most abortions can't even happen at 6-weeks gestation because of the time it typically takes a person to become aware of a potential pregnancy, confirm the pregnancy, consider their options, schedule the medical procedure and comply with the numerous existing restrictions, including a 24 hour waiting period, on abortion in Texas. The decision to have an abortion is a personal medical decision that involves a person and their doctor not Texas State legislators. In a state with one of the highest uninsured rates, you would think the focus would be on expanding healthcare access not restricting it. I urge those reading this to vote in opposition to HB 1515.

Jasmine Tolhurst

Texas Democratic Women of Galveston County and self as a student of UHCL

Dickinson, TX

Opposed. Abortions should be a decision between a woman and her doctor and should be an option to her. No one should dictate a woman's life choices. God invites us all into communion with the understanding we are all sinners and will forever be sinners falling short of his glory. If these decisions are based on the legalism of certain religions that directly violates separation of church and state. Our laws should be based on research and facts given by experts in their fields. Banning abortion is not aligned with what is best to support the mental health of women or families. Texas already does not want to help the children and families

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who already exist by saying social programs are too expensive and handouts. What do you plan on doing when there are even more children and women and families suffering? Women should be informed if every option available. Extra litigation and emotional and financial burdens on women is not right. You are taking away women's freedoms and her autonomy over her own body. Pro-birthing like you are advocating is Anti-freedom and it is unAmerican. Women should have the right to choose the healthcare option that is right for her. The choice to end a pregnancy is not up to the Texas Legislative body to decide for her.

Dawn Rieke

self

Cypress, TX

I am writing to urge the Texas House and Senate committees to each pass the Pro-Life Priority Bills that are being brought forth to committees. As the Senate committee hears the Respecting Texas Patients' Right to Life Act, Senate Bill 917 by Senator Hughes I appeal before the committee to repeal anti-Life 10-Day Rule in the Texas Advance Directives Act. No patient should be forced to have physicians and hospitals withdraw basic life-sustaining treatment, which goes against their wishes and those of their family and only with 10 days notice. Americans are entitled to the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness and no medical establishment should be able to deny a person their God-given rights. Please vote in favor of this bill that repeals the 10 day countdown until a patient can be transferred to an alternative health care setting where their decisions will be honored. I have a mother-in law with Alzheimer's, I would never want anyone to force our family to go against our wishes or those of my mother in law. I also urge the committee to oppose Senate Bill 1944 by Senator Lucio. This dangerous bill fails to protect vulnerable patients from being deprived of their right to life. SB 1944 actually makes the current anti-patient rights law even worse, putting hospitalized Texans at greater risk of involuntary passive euthanasia.

As the The House committee hears the Texas Abolition Strategy, the Texas Heartbeat Act, and the Preborn Non Discrimination Act, I urge all 3 bills to be voted out of committee so that the whole House can vote. I have worked in a pro-life pregnancy center and have as such seen the dangerous ramifications of abortion, both early on and in later pregnancy. Some of the health effects are: failure to conceive again, miscarriage, and painful psychological effects, many of these lasting a lifetime. Please vote for HB1515 that bans abortion after the fetal heartbeat is detected, HB 3218 which ends the appalling practice of late-term abortions and discriminatory abortions, and HB 3760 which would effectively end abortion.

Abortion hurts both the mother and the baby. Studies show that the fetus will move away from pain and that the fetus can feel pain. Why would we not protect the most vulnerable of our species, those who cannot speak for themselves? Please vote to protect and value all human life from conception to natural death.

LeRoy Whitman

self / Bible Translator

Denton, TX

Because time ran out for my oral, in-person testimony on this bill, though I got here early and was one of the first to sign in to testify, I would like to add my points here, more briefly.

I did give one handout to the clerk, an article I wrote, dealing with the philosophical/law basis for criminalizing the intentional killing of any individual human being.

I gave another letter of 6 pages that includes clear thoughts on what effect criminalizing abortion would actually have on women - things I have not heard any others present.

In that more detailed letter, I certainly dealt with HB 1515 (in extended comments on "HeartBeat Bills"), and included a link to legal testimony by a trained sonographer with over 15 years experience.

Re: Texas HB 1515 this session, "Heartbeat" bills sound good, but are not "as advertised."

The crux of the issue is a "DETECTABLE" heartbeat.

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First, though present, only a Trans-Vaginal ultrasound can detect a heartbeat this early.

Secondly, sonogram readings are operator-dependent for what they “see” - and those selling abortions are not inclined to see or show it.

Thirdly, and most importantly as a point of upholding law (against a creeping Lawlessness in our society), HB 1515 would again codify in law (legislation) that some abortions Are permitted. This is to lose the entire ground of law, even for regulation of abortion.

Besides the above quick highlights from my letter, I had the following notes to also present in testimony to the committee Against HB 1515 as written.

The bill requires a checklist about gestational age (even guessed gestational age), and whether a heartbeat was detected. But abortionists and abortion businesses lie! If they have no compunction about intentionally killing a child, they do not have scruples about lying (whether from a sense of “principle” or profit, or both).

Then, both the bill’s language and the form for the abortion office GUIDES them to say the abortion was done for a “medical emergency” exception to the supposed regulation. Under Doe v. Bolton (the companion decision to Roe, handed down in the same year), “medical emergency”/“health of the mother” - which was interpreted broadly to include any profession of the mother that continuing her pregnancy was “psychologically” a burden. In Doe, this meant, already in 1973, that abortion could occur without penalty all the way up to birth.

HB 1515, as written, if considered alone, would not prevent an abortion even at 9 months, under the “medical emergency” provision. A loophole that the form itself points to, for those of a mindset to procure or provide a premeditated child-killing abortion.

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; Texas Family Defense Committee

Cisco, TX

I am Ruth York, testifying in support of HB1515, for myself, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County and Texas Family Defense Committee.

At conception a unique individual is created, and in just a few days specialized structures develop. One of these is the rapidly pulsing heart, pushing blood through the tiny blood vessels.

That little swoosh, swoosh, swoosh can be captured by medical professionals at six to twelve weeks. From time immemorial we have used the beating heart as a measure of life. We should certainly recognize it as a measure of life in the case of unborn children as well.

Lynn Stahl

National Council of Jewish Women

San Antonio, TX

We strongly oppose this frightening bill!

Amanda Moorhead

Self, OT

Lubbock, TX

I am against house bill 1515. Most women don’t even know they are pregnant until after it a heartbeat is detectable. Stop attempting to chip away at our rights for safe abortion access. Please reject this legislation

Karl Holbert

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Self

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 1515

Regina Beavers

Self

Eules, TX

Oppose

Monica Holbert

Self, graphic designer

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 1515.

Darlene Holbert, Mrs

Self, retired

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 1515.

Madeline Oden

Self- Reporter

Temple, TX

This bill is unconstitutional and violates the humanitarian rights of women am Deeply against this bill, as well as the bills HB 1280, HB 2337/ SB 394, HB 2313/SB 802, HB 3218/ SB 1173, HB 3760/ SB 1647.

These bills do not benefit anyone, not even the babies the bills are claiming to protect. They are unjustly taking the rights away from families to privacy, proper and safe medical care, and a choice that should only affect that family and their doctors. As a believer in texas, a Christian, and a woman. I beg you to reconsider passing these bills.

Burt Holbert

Self, student

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 1515.

John Farmer

self

Carthage, TX

This attempt to legally discourage abortions would devastate families by overburdening parents with children they could not care for or nurture. It would increase loveless marriages of necessity that end so quickly in divorce and produce generations of grief. Past traditions celebrated large families due to low survival rates and the intention to increase a family's functional capacity (ie.

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farm work-hands & political dynasties). Our future will revolve around empathy and unconditional loving bonds. Families are reducing the number of their children to intensify those loving bonds. It is unconscionable to pursue the abolition of abortion.

Karen Kelley  
self, Administrative  
Austin, TX

I am in opposition to HB 1515. Women's choice of Healthcare is between her and her doctor.

Adriel Bustillos, Mr.  
Gen Z and El Pasoans  
El Paso, TX

I am upset at the horrid actions this bill does. It is not the government's job to interfere. If you believe in limited government, then stop being hypocrites. This is unconstitutional and against religious rights of some Texans. You should revisit the bill and fail!

Austin Eichler  
Self  
Denton, TX

In regards to HB 1515, including HB 1280, 2337, 2313, 3218, 3760.

I, as a Texan citizen, ask of all members so set aside your religion. Please set aside your own bias in this matter. I, as a male, urge all male party members to look at yourself. Reflect on your role in parenthood, your role as a representative for thousands of women in this state. Women who may not know of these bills, aren't here today to protect their rights to govern their own body. My human body is my property, I myself dictate what occurs with my body.

To those men who speak for these bills, you are dictating the private affairs of thousands of women who may rely on abortion services for their own health. The government should not, in any way, impose such horrendous violations of individual rights and freedoms afforded to women, without being women themselves. It is, in my opinion, wrong and inappropriate.

Please put yourself in the shoes of others. Please understand that not everyone is a God fearing citizen. Please understand that this nation is not a christian nation. If you are using your religion to back these invasive bills, you are incorrect.

Anuradha Koli  
Self  
AUSTIN, TX

This is a direct attack on a woman's right to an abortion and is totally unconstitutional. No government has the right to tell a woman what she can and cannot do with her body.

Caitlin Flynt  
Self  
Dallas, TX

My name is Caitlin Flynt and I am writing in staunch opposition to House Bill 1515. HB 1515 is an unconstitutional, extreme, and dangerous bill that would outlaw abortion before most Texans even know they are pregnant, effectively barring the majority of people from making the medical decisions that are best for them.

At 6 weeks gestation, most people are not even aware that they're pregnant. The earliest anyone can detect a pregnancy is around 4 weeks, and that would give Texans mere days to purchase and take a pregnancy test, confirm the pregnancy, seek medical consultation, consider their options, schedule the procedure, and comply with Texas' 24-hour waiting period on abortions. This is

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simply impossible for the average Texan, who has a job and a family to care for in addition to processing and handling the news of their pregnancy.

Every other place that has tried to enact a bill like this that bans abortion after six weeks has been struck down. That alone should show that aside from being cruel and uninformed, this bill is unpopular and unconstitutional. Should this bill pass, it would be an expensive and time consuming legal challenge for the state.

Abortion access is a deeply personal issue to me. When I found out I was pregnant, I was already 7 weeks along, and I faced several barriers in seeking the care I needed. Because of misinformation surrounding anti-choice bills like HB 1515, I attempted to induce an abortion at home using tips I found online. It was dangerous, and I could have been gravely harmed. When that didn't work, I sought a medical abortion and was faced with barriers such as high costs despite having insurance, I had to take several days off work because of the 24-hour waiting period, and more. Because of the state's inhumane laws, the entire process was dehumanizing and traumatizing. These restrictions on abortion access are wrong and cruel, and a ban that begins at 6 weeks will not end abortion – only safe abortion. This bill will cause Texans to suffer and even die.

House Bill 1515 is an infringement on Texan's vital right to choose, which was affirmed by the Roe vs. Wade decision, and will give Texans nothing but undue suffering and pain. As a resident of Texas and a constituent that you are tasked with representing, I am asking you to reject this legislation and vote NO on House Bill 1515.

Ethan Wayland

self

McKinney, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

David Elam

Self, business owner

Rowlett, TX

Dear representatives,

While I appreciate your desire to diminish the number of abortions in our state, the only true remedy to save lives is to abolish abortion. As a proud life-long Texan, I urge you to hear HB 3326, which would abolish the barbaric, inhumane, and scientifically unconscionable practice of abortion. This must be done immediately. Saving a few more lives through regulation is not what our unborn children deserve. All life deserves to be protected from conception to natural death. Thank you for considering this important matter which is a very important issue to so many Texans. God bless you as you serve our people, including the pre-born.

CARISA BALMOS

"Self" Student/Freelance Editor

Richardson, TX

A woman's constitutional right to an abortion was recognized by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Roe v. Wade (1973) landmark decision. Abortion is a basic health care necessity for millions of women and girls who become pregnant and is known to be safer than childbirth. Nearly 1 out of 4 women in the U.S. (23.7%) will have an abortion by the age of 45. According to CDC data, about 700 women die each year in the United States as a result of pregnancy or delivery complications and a study from Obstetrics & Gynecology found that the risks associated with childbirth outweigh risks associated with abortion by 14 times. HB 1515 is unconstitutional, and I stand in opposition of a bill that would effectively prevent women from having an abortion before they even realized they were pregnant and makes no allowances for cases of rape or incest. The current Texas ban on abortion is 20 weeks. A fetal heartbeat can be detected at 5-6 weeks. This bill would place an "undue burden" on a woman's access to an abortion. HB 1515 would also remove the "standing to sue" requirement by allowing any person to sue an abortion provider if they thought they were breaking the law. This would increase the number of frivolous lawsuits and make it more

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difficult for abortion providers to perform an abortion, which would result in the closure of more abortion facilities, creating an “undue burden.”

HB 1515 is personal for me. About 15 years ago, me and some friends went out dancing at a club in San Antonio. We were drinking and having a good time just hanging out and catching up. One of my friends met a guy while she was at the bar ordering another round of drinks. The guy ends up offering to buy her a drink. He hangs with our group for a while, then asks my friend to go home with him. She was fine when she left with him—completely coherent. Maybe a little buzzed, but not knocked out drunk. He raped her when they got back to his place. She refused his initial advances, then blacked out. She swears he slipped something into her drink, but never had any proof. He dropped her off and left her on the doorstep of her apartment, so she had no way of knowing who he was or where he lived. A few weeks later, she finds out she’s pregnant. She heard the heartbeat. She knew there was no way she could look into the face of the child every day knowing that he/she was conceived out of rape and she had no idea who the father even was, so she decided to obtain an abortion. She could barely afford her apartment and car payment, let alone support a child alone. It was one of the most difficult decisions she ever had to make, but she made it. I can’t even imagine how traumatized she would have been if she found out she was pregnant after being raped, only to learn she had to keep the baby. She didn’t ask to be raped. She was already the victim once. Why should she be the victim every day when she is forced to relive the trauma of rape?

I ask that you please stand with me in opposing HB 1515.

AJ Price, Mx.

self, sole proprietor of local business

League City, TX

A pregnant person has a heartbeat, and that's the one that counts. I reject government overreach into private medical decisions and affirm bodily autonomy regardless of pregnancy status. Therefore I oppose this bill.

Denise Reily

Self

Dallas, TX

Quit trying to make abortion illegal. No woman wants an abortion but the circumstances are sometimes dire and it’s not for you to judge or prevent.

Lucia Herrera

N/a

Austin, TX

Women have the right to their healthcare

Ana Lerma

Self, student

Manor, TX

I'm so grateful for this bill that protects innocent children, but it is not enough. What about all of the babies whose precious hearts are still developing? As a member of the Texas House of Representatives, you swore to faithfully uphold the constitutions of Texas and the United States. We know that both of these constitutions protect the right to life of all human beings, including those in the womb. Please be faithful to your oath and pass a bill that will protect ALL human life from conception to natural death. Thank you for serving us as our representatives.

Megan Baker

Self, childcare

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Austin, TX

This type of bill has been struck down in every state it's been passed in. It would lead to expensive legal challenges because it's unconstitutional.

Brianna Donnelly

Self

Frisco, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

Maggi Carter, Ms.

Self/retired

Beaumont, TX

The State of Texas needs to stay out of people's personal medical decisions.

Sarah Harthcock

Self/ Health Caregiver

Tyler, TX

Please listen to bill 3326 and reject abortion of all kinds. I have lost several family members to abortion. I loved them all. Most families have suffered such losses. The numbers are staggering. We cannot afford to lose people who could possibly be the one and only one to discover the cure for cancer, transform our world in ways we can't imagine, or simply live a life that is their right to live like ours. We also need to begin to teach women that a baby is not a problem, but a solution. And killing an unborn fetus is not an answer but only the beginning of very hurtful and disastrous actions that hurt the women involved. Please act on the behalf of those with no voice.

Jennifer Madrid, Ms..

self

Belton, TX

Please amend this bill to protect all preborn children from fertilization as our Texas Penal Code and Constitution demand, and as our Republican Party legislative priority states. Roe V. Wade is merely an unconstitutional court opinion and not law. There is no right to an abortion in the US or Texas Constitution. The abortionist has no incentive to "find" a heartbeat. This law would be unenforceable and unlikely to save many if any babies. There is good intent behind this bill, truly. But sadly, in reality, this law is not only unenforceable, but likely to be struck down in the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals given its track record. We cannot both bow to a tyrannical Supreme Court attempting to chip away at Roe and appease the court, and also defy and oppose the court as we put forward bills that would abolish the act of abortion and treat our children in the womb, made in God's image, as the fully human very young people they are. Our children's children will surely look back on this time in history and ask themselves how we could have allowed such an evil practice to prevail for so long, just as we look back and wonder how our ancestors allowed slavery to exist for so long in a country whose founding documents declare "ALL men to be created equal and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights," the first of those being the right to life. Please amend this bill to protect ALL pre-born children. Please do not discriminate against children who do not yet have a heartbeat. Please stand against the very unjust and unconstitutional court opinion that is Roe V. Wade.

Cheryl D. Maben

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Myself

Burleson, TX

An unborn child can have a heartbeat and not have a chest wall to hold it in. Their heart and organs can be floating outside the body with no chest wall to hold the organs in. Women who have tried for years to have a child has had this happen. Their grief is beyond measure and their depression can have devastating and long lasting mental problems. This is barbaric when women are forced to live this horror. Leave. Them. Alone. Please. This is supposed to be a free country for all not just men and Christians. Please stop this horror. FREEDOM FOR ALL. This is America.

Mary OConnell

Self

Austin, TX

cozumel 4 review

Michael Gobart

Self

La Vernia, TX

Please do not support bills which will only further legalize murder of preborn children! Appose bills which make allowance for and give exceptions to legally murder children, discriminating against some preborn children based upon age, heartbeat, or other discriminatory factors. Please pursue fulfillment of the Republican Party of Texas legislative priority to COMPLETELY end ALL abortions in the state of Texas. Give HB 3326 a hearing and support it.

Melinda Westphal

Self

Friendswood, TX

I oppose this.

Monica Ramirez

Self- EMR Analyst Manager

Austin, TX

I am in opposition of this bill. These antiabortion bills are aimed at decreasing access to those with less resources. It is discriminatory and unsafe. Before worrying about those "unborn" lives, first take care of your actual texas children who are starving and need better education. And Perhaps actually implement sex education as a start so you would have less abortions.

Martha Tipton

Self

El Paso, TX

Abortion should not even be considered BEFORE the heartbeat is detected! Babies have the right to life. Allfunds spent currently for Planned Parenthood or abortion in any circumstances should be redirected to support women who are in difficult circumstances and to encourage and facilitate adoption.

Burke Miller

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Self

Houston, TX

I am in favor of this bill. With the onset of a fetal heartbeat, the baby has a very good chance of being born.

Using ultrasound, I have seen and heard the heartbeats in the womb of my two daughters and 5 grandchildren. This awesome, life changing experience, of watching that little heart beat in the body of our little boy or girl, was only exceeded by watching their births several months later! What a gift it is to bring new life into the world! Having and raising children is one of those milestones that make life worth living.

At conception, the embryo has all the DNA it will ever have or need, in his or her entire life. It only needs time to grow. A significant difference between a fetus, a newborn baby and even a toddler, is the length of time to develop. None are fully functioning and mature humans. We would not think of ending the life of a newborn or toddler, With the possible exception of the governor of VA. So why are some so willing to end the life of an unborn baby?

We have laws to protect the developing embryos in the eggs of sea turtles, bald eagles and many other animals. So why shouldn't we have laws to protect the developing human embryos? Isn't it logical to do the same thing? Isn't it the humane thing to do?

With the crisis at the southern border, we see innocent children being exploited by human smugglers and drug traffickers. We see helpless women and families being abused, raped, and even murdered by these same criminals. We spend huge amounts of time and money to help these people, because we are a caring and compassionate country.

Is there anyone more innocent and more helpless than an unborn baby? Shouldn't we show the same respect to our unborn?

Shantia Reese

Self

Austin, TX

You say you are pro-life, and I am pro-life as well. I believe that injustice that happens when the police kill unarmed black people is murder. I believe that the people that can buy guns anywhere and then commit mass shootings are murders. The people who hurt them, i.e., the police that shoot unarmed black people, should be held accountable and never be a part of the police force or work in government or security. I believe that all these people that have lost their lives deserve their lives, and you should be working on laws that protect their lives. I believe that we should be protecting people even after they are born and creating laws and infrastructure that protect them. Such as medicare for all, such as the John Lewis Voting Rights, such as the American Rescue Plan, raise the minimum wage.

I believe that a woman has the decision to determine what happens in her life. That a woman's life should be treated with dignity and respect. By choosing to limit abortion as healthcare, you tell all women that they do not have ownership of their life and that somehow an unborn fetus has equal rights over her body. It is a woman's right to make decisions about her body. It is not the government's place to control women's rights nor deny her the ability to decide what is best for her and her life. I am pro-abortion because being able to delay and limit childbearing is fundamental to female empowerment and equality. A woman who lacks the means to manage her fertility lacks the means to manage her life—any plans, dreams, aspirations, responsibilities, or commitments. Additionally, well-timed pregnancies give children a healthier start in life. We now have ample evidence that babies do best when women can space their pregnancies and get prenatal and preconception care. The specific nutrients we ingest in the weeks before we get pregnant can have a lifelong effect on our offspring's well-being. Rapid repeat pregnancies increase the risk of low birth-weight babies and other complications.

Republicans talk all the time about the federal government controlling the state, but you all are trying to control our bodies. The government should not be trying to make it harder for women to go through this difficult process as it is not the easiest decision for some. Women are not property, and there are no government issues that restrict a man's bodily autonomy, but you consistently try to control a woman's bodily autonomy. This is not right, nor does it feel legal. This is discriminatory toward females. There is no medical reason to increase abortion restriction laws, but medical evidence reaffirms the choice for pregnancy should be the child-bearers decision. Reproduction is a highly imperfect process. Genetic recombination is a complicated progression with flaws and false starts at every step along the way. Contraceptives are imperfect, and people are too. The pill is 1960s technology, now half a century old. For decades, women were told that the pill w

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William Ripley

Self, Fireman

Sherman, TX

My name is William Ripley from Sherman

I'm against this bills as written; House Bill 1515 because it is not in effect until Roe v Wade is overturned. It perpetuates the idea that Roe is the law of the land.

I'm also against this bill because it regulates abortion rather than abolishing the murder of preborn babies. It doesn't offer equal protection for unborn persons.

From the time of conception a human person is being formed. the presence of a heartbeat doesnt make that any more of a person than he or she already is.

Tara Sander Lee. A molecular geneticist gives a scientific response to this argument.

[https://youtu.be/jnAbwc\\_pHSY](https://youtu.be/jnAbwc_pHSY)

The Texas Constitution says "Texas is a free and independent state subject only to the constitution of the united states".

The Fifth Amendment of the US Constitution says, in part, "no person shall be deprived of life liberty or property without due process of law". Do we believe all that?

If that's not enough God says that we were formed in our mother's womb. We are made In His Image. Do we believe that?

As a pro-life advocate in Sherman and an ABORTION clinic sidewalk counselor in Dallas. I have helped a handful of people as part of a team. I'm asking you to be part of that team that ends abortion in Texas this year.

Not long ago it was legal to own people in our country. And brave people working on the front lines and in legislature were able to abolish that evil. People defied those immoral laws and the Dred Scott Supreme Court decision for a Godly cause.

I encourage you to change the wording to make this a true abolition bill or support the legislation already filed by Bryan Slayton, HB3326 and HB3641, that defies Roe v. Wade and abolishes abortion.

Many states are currently defying federal law for recreational marijuana. Aren't 55,000 preborn Texans per year worth the good fight?

If these bills had teeth, there would be a line of Pro-choice protesters here. They are absent.

Thr founders of Texas were bold and courageous. I encourage my legislators to be the same.

I leave you with these words of encouragement Moses given to Joshua." Be strong and courageous" ... "the Lord is the one who goes ahead of you he will be with you He will not fail or forsake you do not fear or be dismayed". (Deuteronomy 31:7-8)

Elizabeth Adams, LPC-A

Self, counselor

Roanoke, TX

My name is Ellie Adams and I oppose House Bill 1515. Those seeking an abortion deserve to have bodily autonomy and have their decisions respected. Enforcing a 6 week cut off for this procedure hurts people more than helps. Most pregnant people do not even know they are pregnant at this stage, making this a bill that prevents people from exercising their rights. There are no

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other states that have passed a bill similar to this. In addition, medical experts also oppose this bill. When access to necessary procedures like an abortion are restricted, people will seek other, less safe routes. This will put more lives in danger. Abortion can be a life saving procedure and needs to be protected. Oppose HB 1515. This bill is unconstitutional and damaging to the greater good of Texas residents.

Jessica Stepinoff

self

DALLAS, TX

As a woman who has undergone more than one abortion and was forced, against my will, to listen to it's heartbeat I can tell you it did not convince me of the personhood of the fetus. Science cannot determine without reasonable doubt what consists of a "person" and when "personhood" begins, this is a philosophical question and a matter of personal opinion or "feelings". If a fetus is a person, why do we not hold funerals for miscarriages? Why do they not have a Social Security number? Why does the court not require a father to pay child support? If someone injures the woman and causes miscarriage, why is it not homicide? Why do we not conduct murder trials for every miscarriage? Why is smoking and drinking alcohol while pregnant not considered child abuse or neglect?

Because a fetus is not a person, that's why.

As a practicing Satanist, the fact that my scientifically-informed view on the matter is being questioned is a clear violation of my religious liberties according to the Tenets listed below:

III One's body is inviolable, subject to one's own will alone.

IV The freedoms of others should be respected, including the freedom to offend. To willfully and unjustly encroach upon the freedoms of another is to forgo one's own.

V Beliefs should conform to one's best scientific understanding of the world. One should take care never to distort scientific facts to fit one's beliefs.

Legislation forcing me to view an ultrasound or listen to a heartbeat without my consent is a clear violation of my bodily autonomy, Tenet III & IIII. Anti-scientific documentation that was presented to me during my consultation is a violation of Tenet V. Any legislation that would try to criminalize me for practicing my right to bodily autonomy and performing my religious abortion ritual are clear violations of my religious liberties and my own personhood. Requiring me to inoculate a literal parasite (a fetus that is not viable outside the womb is a parasite by definition) against my will is state mandated violence against me. I refuse to be a breeding mare for the state, no matter how badly they want me to pump out white babies to fight in their Christian Nationalist race war.

Bruce Burton

Texas values

Austin, TX

Please Pass

State Rep. Shelby Slawson filed HB 1515, the Texas Heartbeat Bill, along with the Senate companion SB 8 by Senator Bryan Hughes, to protect the lives of the unborn from the moment a heartbeat is detected. Texas must act this legislative session to protect innocent unborn life at the very moment a heartbeat is detected!

Tom Nobis

self - retired

Houston, TX

Chairman Klick and Committee Members

I am Tom Nobis representing myself. I rise in favor of HB1515 The Texas Heartbeat act.

Thank you for having a hearing on this bill and other Pro-Life bills.

You received quite a bit of testimony regarding this bill. The testimony can be grouped into 3 categories:

1. The Bill doesn't go far enough

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2. The Bill goes to far  
3. Those in favor of saving life by abolishing abortion after a heartbeat is discovered.  
I'm in the third category. This category is between the other 2 so maybe you've got the right solution.  
Some talked about concern that they wouldn't know they were pregnant until after the heartbeat was discovered.  
I can not speak for others, but my wife knew she was pregnant before the heartbeat. She quite work and then went and saw the doctor.  
This bill prohibits abortion after the preborn child's heartbeat is detectable. This bill is about life. Life is precious. It is to God and it is to me.  
From Psalm 139 13:16 - Before I was You knew me. For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb.. You knew me right well;  
my frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

I am Catholic. I'm not a fanatic. This is about saving lives.

It has been proven that Human life begins at conception. They keep saying follow the science. Let us in this case. and protect life as it is specified in the constitution that each has the right to life.

The companion bill SB8 has passed the Senate and has been assigned to this committee.  
This bill has at least 63 authors & o-authors. With such support among House members for this bill,  
Please substitute the companion bill and vote it out of committee and allow to proceed to calendars and the House floor.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony even if it wasn't in person.  
Tom Nobis  
832-529-7144

Kristina Arike  
Self  
Austin, TX

My name is Kristina Arike and I oppose House Bill 1515. This bill would effectively ban abortion in Texas completely, as most people don't know they are pregnant before 6 weeks. Texas lawmakers believe that people should be able to make personal choices about their health when it comes to masks and vaccines, so why not abortion?

This bill will almost certainly lead to legal challenges, which will not only be confusing for people seeking abortion care, but also be a costly legal battle for the state. Doesn't Texas have better things to do, like deal with the fall out from the energy crisis? The pandemic? Getting the economy back on track?

I believe that every Texan has the right to make their own choices about their healthcare, and abortion is healthcare. Nobody should be forced into motherhood when they are not ready to be, or financially stable enough to be. To take away choice is absolutely anti-democratic.

Dinah T  
self  
Allen, TX

Please, I am BEGGING you to allow for safe and affordable abortion. Other high school students like me go to schools in Texas that don't properly educate us on safe sex and how to prevent unwanted pregnancy. A late period might slip our notice and turn out to be a pregnancy. If you take measures to prevent safe and affordable abortions to teens, PLEASE understand that we will go to desperate and dangerous measures in order to not carry through with the pregnancy. Please let us choose what we want to do with our bodies, and do not support HB 1515.

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Joan Edelstein  
Self (Textile Artist)  
Austin, TX

I am completely opposed to this bill and any bill which, in my opinion, tries to control unfairly women's rights re reproductive health and choice.

Sarah Claytor  
self  
Austin, TX

My name is Sarah Gonzalez Claytor and I oppose HB 1515. Everyone should be able to determine what happens with their body, Bodily automony is the basis of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, the ideals our country is based on. Pregnancy and parenting should be a choice! As a Texan, I strongly oppose this legislation and the insertion of government into private, healthcare decisions.

Zaena Zamora  
Self  
McAllen, TX

My name is Zaena Zamora and I oppose House Bill 1515. While I'm representing myself, I also work for an abortion fund in the Rio Grande Valley. The RGV is one of the most marginalized areas in the state of Texas. We are collectively the most economically disadvantaged region of the state, have one of the highest rates of uninsured people, and has been hit the hardest with COVID 19. This bill will do more harm than good for every region in the state and Texans deserve better. Everyday I talk to people who are making the best decision for themselves and their families. While we don't ask why people are choosing to get an abortion they often say very similar things. They talk about how they don't have the resources to care for another child, they talk about trying to make ends meet, they talk about losing jobs and trying to get through school. Abortion is normal and restricting abortion at 6 weeks before most people know they are pregnant is harmful. The decision of if and when to become a parent should be left up to an individual and not be in the hands of politicians. Not to even mention the flood gate of frivolous lawsuits that will follow. I strongly ask that you vote against this bill.

virginia hurley, mrs  
self/teacher  
pflugerville, TX

I am for LIFE always in every situation, unless life of mother is in danger! Heartbeat is a LIFE!

Kayla Perez  
Self  
San Antonio, TX

My name is Ms. Perez and I oppose House Bill HB1280  
This bill is unconstitutional.  
You are aware of the implications of how this will harm Texans.  
It is a violation of bodily autonomy.  
You are chose not to listen and legislate by empirical and tangible evidence.  
Texas should not be violating human rights.

Mary Ambrose  
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self

Austin, TX

I wish to comment and voice my concern about several bills intended to restrict access to, criminalize, and otherwise harm people seeking the provision of an abortion in Texas, including HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218, HB 1173 and HB 3760. Individually and as a whole these bills would have harmful impacts for people seeking an abortion and disempower these individuals from making decisions about their own life and well-being. Instead of shaming and criminalizing individuals seeking abortion through legislative attack, elected officials should be aspiring to make changes that align with the values and improve the well-being of their constituents. Polling by the Texas Politics Project in February 2021 found that 55% of Texans believe that abortion laws should either be less strict or left as they are now, compared to 32% that believe they should be more strict (<https://texaspolitics.utexas.edu/set/should-abortion-laws-be-more-or-less-strict-february-2021>). Proposed bills that further restrict access to abortion such as HB 1515, HB 1280, HB 2337, HB 2313, HB 3218, HB 1173 and HB 3760 do not line up with the opinion of most Texans and would cause unnecessary harm to individuals seeking an abortion and I urge you not to support these proposals.

Corlie Jackson

self

Galveston, TX

OPPOSE!! The State doesn't have the right to legislate my body. Most women don't even realize their pregnant until 7 weeks.

Peggy Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I approve of this bill. Babies lives begin at conception and must be defended

brandie baker

self

austin, TX

I'd like to put in my opposition of HB 1515.

Kate Jaceldo

self - self-employed

San Antonio, TX

This bill is government overreach. It will create a pathway for frivolous and harassing lawsuits that will clog the court systems and serve no one in the end. It is also unconstitutional, as has been shown in other states, so it will again create more unnecessary lawsuits and spend tax payer money that would be better suited doing things that are proven to reduce abortions: increase access to healthcare, improve the maternal mortality rate in the state, anything that is actually in the best interest of the women and children of the state. We will lose good doctors, we will lose corporations that don't agree with this draconian overreach. We will further become an embarrassment in the country.

Bill Roberts

self

Driftwood, TX

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It's about time that we recognize scientific facts in our abortion laws and protect these unborn Americans in the womb.

Deborah Permar

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Deborah Permar and I oppose this bill for many reasons. A large one being that many girls do not have proper sex education from their parents and schools to know how pregnancy truly happens. Better sex education would decrease abortions. However, forcing a child to have another child she cannot raise is cruel.

Also you should not be able to dictate what happens to our bodies. You do not own women's bodies. No woman should be forced to carry to term regardless of her circumstances. Everyone has different views on when it becomes a person but there is too much religion in these decisions when it's not even covered in the bible. People have always used religion to control and overpower. Stop abusing women in the name of God. If you're one of the many old white men that claim to be a christian, Jesus said "feed my sheep" and "love thy neighbor. It specifically claims HE is the new covenant which means following the Old Testament is an act against God. Stop hiding behind the bible to control women, hurt minorities, and keep the poor down.

Karen Pardue

Myself

Kerrville, TX

I agree

Brian Gutierrez

self

Austin, TX

I disagree with this bill.

Amanda Rider

Self. Homemaker

Friendswood, TX

Oppose

Leah Krumholz

Self, Social Media Writer

Austin, TX

This bill is NOT about protecting life; it's about controlling women. A heartbeat does not equate a life. My cells are living but have no heartbeat. The fetus is the size of a bean at six weeks and is not developed enough to exist outside of the womb until 6 months. Since a fetus is not a separate entity from its mother and cannot sustain life outside of the uterus, it should NOT be granted more bodily autonomy than the mother carrying it. Just as you cannot force a person to donate blood or organs against their will, even for the purpose of saving another's life, you should not be able to force a woman to carry to term a pregnancy she does not want and/or one that would put her health at risk. I fear for every Texas woman's wellbeing if this bill comes to pass. Instead of criminalizing abortion, which further puts the mother's life at risk if they decide to self-terminate a pregnancy, it would be more advantageous to make access to birth control and sex education affordable and accessible, as doing so would decrease the number of abortions performed.

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Andrew LeCody  
self - Senior Engineer  
Carrollton, TX

Laws that limit access to health resources, remove a person's ability to make decisions for themselves or create a chilling effect on the providers of these services is immoral and unconstitutional. Pregnancy, whether intentional or accidental, is a purely personal experience and no one has claim to a woman's body but herself. Stripping a person of their bodily autonomy by masquerading it as compassion is a vile and uniquely evil form of oppression.

Bodily autonomy, self determination, self defense, and other human rights must never be infringed. I oppose HB 1515 and any similar bill.

Shannon Morse  
self  
Dallas, TX

A woman may not know that she is pregnant at 6 weeks - roughly the time it would take for a fetal "heartbeat" to be detected. Personally, I never experienced menstruation on a predictable cycle, often cycling 6-8 weeks. This is not an anomaly for women not on hormonal birth control. And the additional punitive possibility of civil action by ad hoc deputizing private citizens as "choice" police, approaches the Orwellian. In short, I oppose HB 1515 and hope legislators will too.

Richard Lang  
Self  
Pearland, TX

Life starts at conception. From the moment two individual cells unite a third completely new living and growing cell forms. Science has even recently captured the moment an individual sperm penetrates and egg light is emitted. This new Life will soon display a beating heart. A fast beating. Unmistakable and separate from her Mother's. Many times Mom doesn't even know a new heart is beating yet. This is a new Texan living and growing worth of all protections and respect. S/He's not a part of Mommy's body. Unless Mommy has 2 hearts, 4 hands, 4 legs and feet and sometimes has two sexes. Impossible! I ask you then, respectable representatives of the great State of TX that I love to do all you can and more to pass quickly this bill HB 1515 to ban all abortions the very moment the Baby's heartbeat is detected. I will be carefully watching the evolution of this and other bills.

Respectfully,  
Richard A. Lang  
2211 Glade St  
Pearland, TX 77584

Marilyn Hartman  
Self  
Austin, TX

I strongly oppose any abortion law that is more restrictive than what is currently allowed under Roe vs. Wade. The laws being put forth are promulgated by legislators' personal religious beliefs without regard to the personal beliefs or difficult situations of the women or families involved. Government officials have no place in deciding what a woman faces who has to make one of the most difficult decisions of her life. In addition, the beliefs of those pushing these bills are not dictated by science, which indicates that a fetus is not a viable human being until later in the gestation period; there is also evidence that a fetus does not feel

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pain during the time when a fetus can be legally aborted.

Years ago, a woman who reported to me in the workplace had to make the decision to have an abortion. She and her husband already had two children and knew they could not support another, and yet she found herself pregnant. The decision to have an abortion was jointly made by the husband and wife; this decision was wrenching. This mother had considerable anguish, and yet, for her and her husband, it was the right decision. These decisions are highly personal, but to have made her carry an unwanted child to term is cruel and unusual punishment.

I'm old enough to have been a young woman in the days when abortions were not legal. Women resorted to all kinds of interventions to terminate unwanted pregnancies, including coat hangers, from which many became infected, sterile, or dead. This is not what we want to bring back. Unwanted pregnancies do happen, even with the best preventative measures, not to mention rape, incest and other unsavory happenings in which the woman has no control.

**PLEASE DO NOT PASS THESE RADICAL ABORTION BILLS. YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO FOIST YOUR VALUES AND CONSCIENCE ON OTHERS; THEY HAVE THEIR OWN VALUES AND CONSCIENCE TO GUIDE THEM IN WHAT IS RIGHT FOR THEM. IT IS NOT YOUR BUSINESS, AND ABORTIONS ARE NOT MURDER UNDER CURRENT LAW.**

Donna Lyons, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Please protect our unborn children and vote to make this bill succeed .  
Thank you

Jessica Jarvis

Self

Katy, TX

This bill will not likely save any babies, the nurses and staff are trained to make money for the doctors and corporations they work for. They won't likely be honest about the heartbeat. Many nurses have come out and said they would act as though they couldn't find the baby many times to make the mom feel more comfortable. The same thing would happen even still. Please Consider HB 3326 and abolish abortion

Deloris Honick

Self

Magnolia, TX

I was made to have an abortion when I was 18 . I didn't know that I wasn't a minor anymore listened to what my mom told me must happen or my life and our families would be shamed . I was given an ultrasound but my mom would not let them show me because she knew I would change my mind and the clinical staff did nothing to stop her and acknowledging me of my rights. After the abortion I was handed my file to take to the nurse in the so called recovery room . Where every single girl was crying. I opened it and saw a picture of my baby and across the picture was the heartbeat rhythm strip . I was told my baby was a group of cells nothing else . The picture showed a baby with arms legs and already formed . It took me until I was 47 to get help for what I allowed to happen to me . Thanks to my faith in God I know I am forgiven. A weekend retreat with a faithful organization called new heart of texas allowed me to finally acknowledge what I saw that it was a baby and I named him and gave it to God . So please be in full support of this heart beat bill

Mark Lee Dickson, Director

Right To Life of East Texas

Longview, TX

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Since 1976, Right To Life of East Texas has fought for the right to life from the point of conception until natural death. We are thankful that Senator Bryan Hughes has filed Senate Bill 8 and that Representative Shelby Slawson has filed House Bill 1515.

It was an honor to be present at the hearing for Senate Bill 8, and I wish I would have been able to attend the hearing on Wednesday for HB 1515 but I was in Hayes Center, Nebraska for a very important vote. The Village of Hayes Center passed an ordinance outlawing abortion within their city limits, becoming the 24th city in the nation to outlaw abortion. The other 23 cities who have outlawed abortion are all in Texas. Standing for life and inspiring other states to follow our lead is what Texas should be known for. Know that when you stand for this bill you are not standing alone.

Standing with you are the cities of Waskom, Naples, Joaquin, Tenaha, Gilmer, Westbrook, Rusk, Colorado City, Gary City, Big Spring, Wells, Whiteface, East Mountain, New Home, Morton, Ackerly, Grapeland, Goldsmith, Carbon, Gorman, Murchison, and Latexo.

These cities have already cast their vote and, based on the ordinances which they have passed, I think it is safe to say that they have, in their own way, already voiced support for great bills like SB 8 and HB 1515.

Know you are not standing alone.

Thank you for representing us well in championing this life-saving legislation - legislation which we are glad to join with you in championing.

May the Texas Heartbeat Act pass and may God Bless Texas for it. You have our full support.

Cheryl Cali

Self / homemaker

Victoria, TX

A heartbeat bill will concede to the lie that life doesn't begin until there is a heartbeat making it more difficult to ever further regulate abortion based off of gestational development or even more difficult to abolish abortion. Our state laws already define the preborn as a person from the moment of conception. A heartbeat bill will go backwards from this, giving up the truth that we already hold to and affirm.

There is no evidence that a heartbeat bill will save even one preborn baby. As long as we continue as a state to legislate and regulate abortion as healthcare, women will continue to call it healthcare and murder their preborn babies within the state sanctioned parameters.

So far, legislatively, heartbeat bills have been a failed strategy. Not one time has a heartbeat bill gone into effect and they have been run in 10 states, with some states having run them multiple times. To no avail. Heartbeat bills are continually struck down or blocked or killed in committee. Yet this is one of the reasons we are constantly given as to why the risk can no be taken to fully abolish abortion. Heartbeat bills also guarantee litigation. Planned parenthood, the ACLU, and multiple other special interest pro abortion groups have brought suits several times. This is another excuse we are given as to why abortion can not be abolished.

If we are willing to take these risks to save preborn babes with heartbeats, why not take the same risk to fully and immediately save all babies and abolish abortion? Most people would rather be a law abiding citizen so our state must fully stop making laws that permit the killing of babies.

If you truly had compassion on women that have abortions you would stop permitting them to kill by abortion. If you truly loved your neighbor you would not legally sanction them to be torn limb from limb or poisoned, you would actually protect all preborn babies.

This bill is unenforceable by any form of government ... this is another bill of false hope that abortion will end.

God asks us to choose this day whom we will serve, for 48 years the Texas state house has made it evident whom is being served by regulating the sacrifice of children to demons. It's not God, but Satan. But the time for repentance is now. Abortion must be

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abolished.

Joe Goodson

Concerned Christian Citizens

Temple, TX

Since not all speakers were given the opportunity to speak, even after waiting for up to 10 hours at the Capitol and having come from around the state for just that reason in our participatory republic, I'd like to add my comments concerning this bill. It's another prolife measure that attempts to save some victims of this holocaust but leaves other victims to face their murderers unprotected. This is blunt but accurate, and all such incremental measures are unacceptable. Unacceptable in light of the standard of God's justice for all, which is also heralded as America's standard in our national Pledge. Unacceptable in light of the Constitution, which guarantees that no person shall be deprived of life without due process. And unacceptable in light of the Texas Republican Legislative Priority to abolish abortion, which again this session has a bill but is again being ignored by the majority of our prolife legislators. Babies who do not yet have a detectable heartbeat need the same protection we are offering those with a detectable heartbeat. My own daughter was a frozen embryo when we adopted her and she was placed in my wife's womb and given the chance to live, but her heartbeat was not yet detectable at that time - even though she was very much alive. It's really simple: until we are securing equal protection for all of abortion's victims, we are not approaching their slaughter with God's just standard. After 50 years and over 60,000,000 victims, we must repent and rise up to uphold the righteous standard of the immediate and complete abolition of abortion.

Kailea Humphreys

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill and ask all members to do the same.

Pat Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

This is necessary to protect the lives the babies who can't speak for themselves

Lauren Oden

Self

Austin, TX

If the "pro-life" senators & representatives actually CARED about lives, they would consider the heartbreaking difficulties and choices that can come with pregnancy.

They'd write bills in support of equal access to mental healthcare and temporary work leave for women who experience the worst news they could ever hear.

They'd stop seeking individual retribution and punishments for abortion providers and their patients, and work toward equal access to contraception and ACTUAL sex education across the state (& I say this as a Texas teacher who taught sex ed).

This bill is unconstitutional, cruel, and unhelpful in terms of lowering abortion rates and I urge the committees and state representatives to consider the actual good of their constituents - not the contents of their uteruses.

Tabatha Wilson

Private Citizen

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Waco, TX

All these aborting bills that are currently on the floor are absurd. They violate women's privacy, violate HIPAA, and have no consideration for the woman having to carry a pregnancy that is fatal to the fetus or carry the fetus of her rapist. Government needs to stay out of the Dr's office. These decisions should be between the woman and her Dr. These bills should not pass!

Andrea Ferrigno

Whole Woman's Health

McAllen, TX

My name is Andrea Ferrigno, I am the Corporate Vice President for Whole Woman's Health. I am submitting testimony in opposition to House Bill 1515 because it's an extreme and unconstitutional bill that would ban abortion at 6 weeks gestation without the exception for incest or rape. This bill would push the option to obtain an abortion out of reach for most Texans since most people don't determine they're pregnant during this timeframe.

Bills like this are being promoted by anti-abortion groups across the U.S. in an attempt to overturn Roe v. Wade. If this bill is enacted and enforced it would become one of the most extreme and harmful abortion bans in the country. It would place both medical and logistical burdens on Texans - they would have to determine they're pregnant, schedule an appointment, possibly arrange for childcare and time off from work all before the 6-week deadline, which would be extremely difficult for most people and impossible for many. Because of this, top medical professionals like the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) oppose 6-week abortion bans.

What makes this bill even more harmful is that it allows for anyone to sue abortion providers or anyone who helps someone obtain an abortion. This would expose providers up to the harassing lawsuits of anti-abortion individuals or organizations. This bill is not about protecting public health, it's about banning abortions at all costs. Lawmakers should be working to pass legislation that expands Medicaid, provides relief during this pandemic, or address one of the highest Black mortality rates in the country. Instead, they're looking to criminalize top medical professionals for providing patients a safe and effective service. Texans deserve better.

Bills like this one have been passed in other states and have been blocked by the courts. It for these reasons that I oppose House Bill 1515.

JAMISON FRANICH

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

I am writing to urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas. Thousands of unborn lives are at stake, so I plead with the committee to give a hearing to Representative Bryan Slaton's bill HB 3326.

Renate Sims

Self Homemaker

Round Rock, TX

I would like to express support of the heartbeat bill. The argument is often made, that kids that are unwanted would be better off not born. You can rest assured, this argument is never made by parents who adopted those very children. As a mother of 4 siblings through CPS adoption placement, I can assure you the best choice the bio-mother of my children ever made was allowing them to have a birthday. Our family, community, church, -this world, would be so much less without them! Please chose life!

Karen Newman, Retired Teacher

Self

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Liberty Hill, TX

Please protect the lives of the unborn.

Katrima Rodriguez, Mrs

Self

Georgetown, TX

I'm in support of HB1515 protecting the inalienable rights of the precious unborn from the moment of heartbeat detection.

McKenna Dallmeyer

self, student

Cedar Park, TX

I stand for life and for the unborn! We must stop the shedding of innocent blood in our state. We have an opportunity to be the voice of the voiceless unborn child and this bill provides that. I support HB 1515.

Jill Oliver

self

Buda, TX

New findings were published in the British Medical Journal, November 14, 2019, citing that a fetus experiences pain as early as 12 weeks. This provides a common starting ground regardless of religious or philosophical views. Given that a Dilation and Curettage or Dilation and Evacuation often results in the dismemberment of the fetus, surely most people would find this procedure grossly inhumane given recent advances in the understanding of a fetus' capacity for pain. This would naturally beg the question that either such a procedure should not be performed or that the fetus should be given some sort of analgesic or anesthesia.

Derbyshire and Bockmann stated in their paper, "Reconsidering Fetal Pain," In summary, current neuroscientific evidence undermines the necessity of the cortex for pain experience. Even if the cortex is deemed necessary for pain experience, there is now good evidence that thalamic projections into the subplate, which emerge around 12 weeks' gestation, are functional and equivalent to thalamocortical projections that emerge around 24 weeks' gestation."

In their conclusion they state, "Overall, the evidence and a balanced reading of the evidence, points towards an immediate and unreflective pain experience mediated by the developing function of the nervous system from as early as 12 weeks."

Perhaps as medical science advances we will deem the experience of fetal pain to occur even sooner.

Derbyshire and Bockmann state that they, "are not aware of any procedures where invasive fetal intervention proceeds without anesthesia or analgesia, except for abortion."

It seems inconceivable that no anesthesia or analgesia would be offered to the fetus upon termination of thier life. But perhaps, that very statement is key in understanding what appears to be an inconsistent treatment of the fetus. In an abortion procedure the fetus is determined to not yet be human and thus intrinsically lacks value. In the field of human fetal surgery the fetus is the patient, thus human and intrinsically valuable.

I think we must ask ourselves. If we deem in inhumane to terminate a pregnancy without offering anesthesia to the fetus. Is it not innately inhumane to terminate the life of anything so advanced that it must require anesthesia, especially, when we consider the "anything" we are referring to is a developing human, with the same DNA they will have as a fully grown adult. I think we have to be very careful about assigning a date at which we deem a fetus human - thus having intrinsic value. Therefore, I ask that you vote in favor of HB 1515.

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Christy Decker  
ProLove Ministries  
Pflugerville, TX

Women deserve better than abortion. In my work I see firsthand how women experiencing unplanned pregnancies desire true support and real care. I see women wounded by a past abortion. The abortion industry does not care about women. They care about money. Please protect women and protect their unborn.

Andy Jones  
Personal  
Austin, TX

Stop regulating women's bodies and choices. Alternatively add a section regulating men - get a vasectomy! Let's keep religion out of our statehouse.  
Thanks

paula Moore  
CWA  
San Antonio, TX

A heartbeat is life. I am hoping the Texas legislature recognizes this. Silencing a heartbeat is death.

Todd Moore, Dr  
self surgeon  
Arlington, TX

It is only a matter of time before science makes it possible for a child with a heartbeat to survive outside the womb. We cannot wait for science to move the "line" for becoming human. The fetus is a human and deserves the same rights as anyone.

Angela Williams  
Self  
Leander, TX

I fully support HB 15. I became pregnant in 1995 at the age of 15. My daughter was born on May 25, 1993 and she is going to be 28 yrs old, she is married and has two children. She is also a LISD 7th and 8th grade English Teacher. I went to a Planned Parenthood and they tried to convince me to abort. I am thankful and she is thankful, I chose life!

Shirley Brinkman  
Self  
Austin, TX

Every life is precious. A heartbeat indicates life. Please support all life bills, but especially this one, HB1515.

Tracy Bagwell  
Self

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Leander, TX

We support the right to life! Please end abortion!

Heather Gardner

self

Austin, TX

Thank you for this bill. A procedure that is only deemed successful if a heartbeat is stopped is NOT healthcare. Stop discriminating against small humans with heartbeats just because of their size and location.

Dorothy Huang

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am a Christian and I am against abortion. It's cruel to kill a baby.

Mariah Reynolds

Self

New Waverly, TX

This bill would allow life to live. Having an ultrasound, proving life is an outstanding way to prevent a senseless life taken. This also allows woman to figure out ways to help their unborn child; adoption, self or family. Medically speaking, if a heartbeat is found, you continue with care. Life is not finished. Nor should a life be taken if a heartbeat is found.

david singleton

self

austin, TX

I fully support this bill. It is never acceptable for a person to kill an innocent life to solve a problem. This bill supports that

Robert Bagwell

Self

Leander, TX

We must be the voice of these innocent babies. I support HB 1515. Pass this bill!!!

Tammera Aranda

Self- Homemaker

San Antonio, TX

American College of Pediatricians published an Abstract as late as 2017 stating that “The predominance of human biological research confirms that human life begins at conception - fertilization. At fertilization, the human being emerges genetically distinct, individuated zygotic living human organism, a member of the species Homo sapiens, needing only the proper environment to grow and develop. The difference between the individual in its adult state and in its zygotic state is one of form, not nature”

In order for abortion to be abolished in Texas we must not discriminate against any child. We must face this evil monster of abortion

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with a resolve to call it exactly what it is- murder against the innocent. It undeniably takes the life of another human being and we must treat our pre born neighbors as we would any other human being. That child is not a tape worm or an enemy combatant to its mother. It is an image bearer of God and should be treated as such. We say to women “ no you will not kill your child in your womb , or at anytime. The reproduction has occurred and this idea that women can decide to kill because it is located inside their womb is as crazy as giving them a pass on throwing a new born in the trash or out the car window.

. On the grounds of our state Capitol there is a huge display of the Ten Commandments. It is very clear that “Thou shalt not murder” Yet in these hall’s laws are made that ignore that command. The result of that disobedience has cost the lives of millions of innocent babies. I am compelled to advocate and to be a voice for the innocent people, whom this society has deemed unwanted and literally disposable. Yes- valuable precious people who are image bearers of God. I am pleading for equal protection and equal justice for the pre born. I am against this bill because it does not establish equal protection or equal justice for developing human beings. Ignore Roe and protect all babies. Thank you for your time to hear this plea.

Carolyn Brooks

Simply Divine Communications, LLC

Eules, TX

This bill must pass! We must stand up and pass this law in Texas. Stand up and help save unborn babies. The rest of America will take notice.

Grace Dotson

Self / Housewife, mother

Kyle, TX

I support this bill-

Christine Arroyo

self/retired

Austin, TX

I am in strong support of HB 1515.

Science has discovered many facts unknown at the time Roe v. Wade became law. We all know now abortion is not simply “removing a clump of cells.” It is actually “removing a developing human life” that already has a beating heart as early as three weeks. How can anyone who knows this take that life?

A new, unique human being is formed at conception, and I believe it is wrong to terminate that life, at any stage of development.

All women are emotionally damaged from abortion, whether they admit it or not, and never forget they took the life of their baby. They know what they did was wrong and many suffer a lifetime of emotional pain from the guilt.

On the other hand, women who deny the reality of their abortion become hardened and bitter. Sadly, they’re unable to experience the true love and joy life has to offer.

I am asking you to please vote yes to pass this very important bill to help stop this atrocity of abortion. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Bill Huang

self

Round Rock, TX

I support H B 1515. Abortion should not be allowed.

Roger Huang

self

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Round Rock, TX

Dear Representatives, I am strongly in favor of HB1515, since the heartbeat of the unborn child indicates he/she is alive. Please vote "YES".