

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 2676

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

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Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 8:00 AM

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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.

helen allen

representing myself as a concerned Texas Citizen

dallas, TX

Support 2676. Abortion should never be allowed, but certainly should be once the heart beat is heard. Science has proven that even before the heartbeat is heard, the baby is capable of feeling pain. How much more once the heartbeat is heard. This needs to be voted YES.

Marcella Marmor, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill is not needed. Most Texans support safe, legal abortions. Women will die needlessly, if you do this.

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. The unliving cells inside her body are NOT a human being, as is she. HERS is the life being destroyed by an unplanned, unwanted pregnancy, when being pregnant should be a wonderfully joyful experience. The devastation is palpable. What if someone you love, a daughter, a relative, a friend, were to be confronted with such overwhelming pain? The various anti-choice bills in the house deny the viability of the very much alive female. For shame to consider burdening her with a "civil penalty" or even worse, a "criminal offense". 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.

Veronica J Esparza, Mrs

Self/ retired educator and counselor

El Paso, TX

All abortions are crimes and action must be taken

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

Angela Wilson  
D. Brown Interiors  
LEAGUE CITY, TX

My name is Angela Wilson and I live in League City Tx My zip code is 77573 I'm calling to let my Representative Bonnen know that 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. Specifically, I oppose House Bills 1280, 1515, 2313, 2337, 3218, and 3760.

Lori& Stockstiel  
National Council of Jewish Women San Antonio  
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

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!

Lori Boyter  
Self  
Haltom City, TX

I support this bill

Mimi Barreras  
self - teacher  
MAGNOLIA, TX

I sorely regret that I cannot be there today to testify before you about this bill and other pro-life bills. I am testifying FOR HB2676.

Recognizing life in the womb is a matter of cultural integrity. I still remember my grandparents culture, where a child who died right after birth was not named, a matter of course. It was a life recognized as life, but little more, because death was so common. There were no medical records to explain what happened to the child, no understanding years later.

Allowing certificates of public record to be filed gives dignity to parents, grandparents, siblings. It gives medical recognition to a person, a little person, no matter how small. Personhood is important and valid under the law and it is high time we recognize those in the womb or those just born to be such. If we can legally terminate a child up to birth in some states, then we need to define what was in that womb if the parents so desire for it to be defined. It is a matter of dignity. It is a matter of legal record.

Please send HB2676 to the House floor for a vote.

Danna Halfff  
self  
San Antonio, TX

This horrible bill will discourage women from seeking appropriate prenatal care. Also a slippery slope: are you going to start calling women to house committee meetings and asking them how the stillborn baby died? WHAT about miscarriage? This is a MAJOR government overreach.

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

Amanda Stoffels  
self-educator  
Keller, TX

Creating an optional registration process by which families can receive a life certificate for their preborn child to acknowledging their personhood before birth seems reasonable and helpful to those who are opposing abortion. Please vote for this bill.

Andrew Perretta  
N/A  
Schertz, TX

Hello. My name is Andrew Perretta. I'm a voting constituent in Guadalupe County. I oppose HB 2676. 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.

Khadija Hassan, Ms.  
Self. medical student  
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. No need for more bureaucracy.

Rebecca Rodgers  
Self  
ARLINGTON, TX

I am writing in support of HB2676. Every life is valuable including the unborn. It is important that we have a record and an understanding of those lives that are being lost to abortion. By creating a life certificate for the unborn we recognize the significance of their life. Thank you for taking the time to validate the life of the unborn.

Jennifer Duffy  
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.

Elizabeth Guess  
Self  
Frisco, TX

I agree with the option of record of life for any conceived child. Not sure there needs to be fees.

Doc Greene

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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

Lisa Kamerer, Mrs

Self

Woodlands, TX

All lives matter, whether unborn or born. Every life with a heartbeat needs to be accounted for. I support this bill.

Joseph Barker

Self

Dallas, TX

This is a ridiculous bill. It's always the poorest who suffer and will continue to suffer from insane bills like this.

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

Karen Eudy

Self

Royse City, TX

This is a discriminatory bill. All preborn babies deserve to live and have a record of life.

I urge the committee to immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas and provide equal protection for all innocent preborn human beings.

Joan Dodson

Self

Weatherford, TX

Please reject continued regulation of abortion and immediately hear HB3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

Brenda Frank, Retired teacher

Self

Tomball, TX

Dear House Public Committee Representatives,

My name is Brenda Frank and I'm writing to express my opinion on HB 2676 which creates an registration process which families can receive a life certificate for their preborn child acknowledging personhood before birth. I am FOR this bill. Please vote YES for HB 2676.

Thank you,  
Brenda Frank  
8324438449

Meredith Duke

self, realtor

Belton, TX

In 2011 we went to the birthing center to have our 3rd child. When we arrived, the midwife could not find our baby's heartbeat. We were rushed to the hospital and the doctor stated our baby had no heartbeat. We went from planning her birth to planning her funeral before she was even born. It turns out that Emma's umbilical cord had been wrapped around her neck 3 times and when she dropped it basically strangled her. Our full term, precious baby, never breathed her first breath, never opened her eyes, never grasped my finger. My heart was already broken, but it was almost like adding insult to injury when we could not get a birth certificate for Emma. We received a death certificate, but was not allowed to get a birth certificate. How do you have a death certificate if a life certificate was never issued? She was a precious little girl, Emma Danielle Duke. As a mother who has just lost her child (probably THE WORST feeling in the world), you cling to all that you can - any photos you can take, anything that the hospital gives you (including her little hospital gown), and you leave the hospital without your child. Have you ever done that? Have you ever felt the loss of a child and had your hopes of that life crushed before they ever even got off the ground? Help grieving parents - allow them to file a record of life - SOMETHING to indicate more than just a death certificate. It was a life while in the womb - that baby kicked, smiled, sucked her thumb, moved around - that's LIFE and should be recognized as such. The sun may have never kissed her face but I did, even as we left her behind for the funeral home to pick her up.

James Herblin

J G Herblin

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.

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

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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.

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.

Laura Braley

Self

Plano, TX

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

Michelle Morris

Self, financial planner

Missouri City, TX

OPPOSE

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.

Sara Beckner

Self

Pflugerville, TX

OPPOSE

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

Elizabeth Seiders

N/a

Round Rock, TX

Yes

Arthur Simon

self, artist

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill because all of these stillborn children will become registered voters.

Joni Silva

Self, Silva Lining Voice Over, LLC

Houston, TX

Backdoor to try and take away my rights. OPPOSE this ridiculous bill.

Katrin Young

Myself

Magnolia, TX

Please support this bill, giving dignity and honor to children lost in the womb.

Carrie Salazar

Abolish Abortion Texas

Ft Worth, TX

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

Dana Epley

Self

Houston, TX

Opppsed!

Billy O'Dell

40 Days for Life Denton over 300 volunteers

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.

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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 all these Pro-life laws see a full vote by the the house. These bills are too 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. Let them find true help at the many organizations that are willing to help often for free. Lets get rid of abortion all together. These are one step to make that happen. Thank you.

Barbara Dearman

Self

Plano, TX

Oppose

GABRIELA AHLHEIM, MRS

SELF

AZLE, 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. There is no reason why Texas can't lead in this effort. If not now? When?

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.

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.

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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.

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.

Bettie Forman  
Bettie Forman  
Austin, TX

Strongly oppose

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 and onerous bill.

Isabelle Headrick  
self, student  
Austin, TX

I oppose HB 2676 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. It has no place in the state of Texas.

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.

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.

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

eileen Ladd  
NCJW  
Austin, TX

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

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.

Merle Dover  
n/a  
Austin, TX

This is a horrific bill placing an undue burden on a woman in what is already a deeply emotional and grievous event. I am OPPOSED!

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. Do not add impediments. Do not add fees. This is not a government matter.

Lisa Tolhurst  
self/RN  
Dickinson, TX

Oppose

Deborah Roberson  
Self-- mental healthcare practitioner  
Pflugerville, TX

I am in OPPOSITION to this bill. Why create a fee or certification process but to penalize the mother. This is insane!  
We are in the 21st century!  
Do not sign this bill!

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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

Lynn Krasnow

Sekf

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.

James Apple

Self

Kemah, TX

One of the craziest bills that I have seen come forward in a long time! Against.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

I support this bill as it would allow parents to recognize the life of an unborn child and would be useful to future generations in genealogy research. I urge you to report this bill favorably out of committee promptly. Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill.

Shari Davis, Ms

NCJW

Austin, TX

Oppose

Kevin Price

Secular Dems of Texas

Galveston, TX

Oppose

BRIAN SANDLER

BLM, NAACP, SPLC

Arlington, TX

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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.

Renee Sabel

Self

San Antonio, TX

I oppose this bill as it inserts the state in a personal decision and would needlessly traumatize mothers who have a stillbirth.

brian rogers

Law Office of Brian J. Rogers

Friendswood, TX

No. This is bullshit. Oppose.

Abigail OConnor

self

Austin, TX

Parents of unborn children should not be legally required to complete any undue paperwork

Hannah Margolis

National Council of Jewish Women

San Antonio, TX

truly opposed

Alice Perloff, Ms.

Self

San Antonio, TX

I was quite horrified to find out that Representative Bonnon is a physician!!!!. This bill is so cruel and disgusting. How could someone who is supposed to heal would think of new ways to make the trauma of a miscarriage or still birth even more heartbreaking. Some how he did.

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 who already exist by saying social programs are too expensive and handouts. What do you plan on doing when there are even

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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.

Lynn Stahl

National Council of Jewish Women

San Antonio, TX

We oppose this bill as interfering with a woman's personal choice. The government can state that they can't mandate masks - but yet they are imposing government actions on women's choice!

Regina Beavers

Self

Eules, TX

Oppose

Karl Holbert

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 2676

Monica Holbert

Self, graphic designer

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 2676

Darlene Holbert

Self, retired

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 2676

Burt Holbert

Self, student

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 2676

David Elam

The pre-born

Rowlett, TX

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

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.

Mary OConnell

Self

Austin, TX

Stop filing these asinine bills!! You are wasting the taxpayers money!!! Abortion is LEGAL and it is HEALTHCARE!!!

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.

virginia hurley, mrs

self/teacher

pflugerville, TX

Yes! All children in every circumstance to be honored.

Bill Roberts

self

Driftwood, TX

It is important to give this added recognition to the rights of the unborn by giving them an actual legal status in life. Pass the bill.

Brian Gutierrez

self

Austin, TX

I disagree with this bill.

Shannon Morse

self

Dallas, TX

This proposed requirement violates my Jewish religious beliefs and teachings. It infringes on my religious liberties. As a Jew, I believe that life begins when a newborn emerges from the mother and takes their first breath. Thus, there would be no need for a

Printed on: April 22, 2021 10:36 PM

record of "life" and to require it is in direct opposition to my religion. I encourage legislators to think beyond their own experience and expand their perspectives. As I respect a woman's CHOICE to see a pregnancy to full term if that is aligned with her religious beliefs, I ask only that women of other faiths, or no faith, be given the same respect. I oppose HB 2676.

Donna Lyons, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote in favor of this bill. To give honor and dignity to every life , to have a record of thier existence .  
Thank you

Deloris Honick

Self

Magnolia, TX

I was a young girl at 19 when I was forced to undergo an abortion by my mom . I believe creating a record of life is also helping people like me in acknowledging there was yes a real child and life . I was 47 before a attended a faith based retreat on overcoming abortion. I held on to guilt shame and the dirtiness for years . This retreat let me name my baby I was given a certificate of life and able to forgive myself for what was done . The doctors love to tell all these women that its just a clump of cells when its not . 95% of abortions happen when on ultrasound you can hear a heart beat see arms legs and head all mimicking a real baby so yes its real .

Peggy Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill

Pat Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill because it provides additional impetus against opting for abortion