

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3218

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH

Hearing Date: April 7, 2021 8:00 AM

Liz Hanks

Self

Houston, TX

I am absolutely opposed to this bill. From a Representative who wants no restrictions on guns whatsoever, and is constantly worried about constitutional rights, I wish he would apply his freedom and liberty arguments to women's bodies and healthcare as well.

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

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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.

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 3218. This would further endanger people who would be forced to continue an anomalous pregnancy. This would be cruel treatment during an already challenging care plan.

Maureen Johnson

self medical health professional

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3218 which removes the exception to abortion after 20 weeks for non-viable pregnancies. Passage of this legislation will ensure that more women die as a result of being forced to do at-home and back alley abortions.

I ask you to vote no to HB 3218

Maureen Johnson

Louella Olson, Mrs.

Self

Arlington, TX

The heart beat bill should be voted for as why would anyone want to take the life of a baby especially after the heartbeat is detected. Babies should have the same right you and I did to life and given the chance to pursue and achieve whatever God intended for them. Life is precious and sacred and should only be taken by God Himself. Vote for life and know you are giving an opportunity for a person to live the American dream.

Lora Wildenthal

self professor

Houston, TX

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This one is personal. My mother had to carry a dead fetus to term in the late 1950s. Its umbilical cord was wrapped around its neck (I do not know if it was a girl or a boy; it happened before my own birth, and the memory was so painful my mother almost never spoke of it.) In her case, medical technology did not permit her doctor to confirm the situation. Now that is different. We have better technology now.

Unfortunately we also now have politicians who care nothing for a woman's energies, time, or trauma. This bill is punitive towards women at their most vulnerable. Shame on the authors of this bill.

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.

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.

Danielle Lail

self

Austin, TX

I deeply oppose this bill. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

Larry Collins, Rev.

3:16 Evangelistic Association Inc.

Mckinney, TX

I am FOR the protection of unborn babies and I fully support this Bill. A society is best judged by how well it protects and defends its weakest. We must pass this Bill. Texans are known for their compassion and strong moral and family values. Please pass this Bill 3218.

Jennie Kuzdzal

self / biologist

Houston, TX

My name is Jennie Kuzdzal, and I oppose House Bill 3218.

Pregnancy carries inherent health risks, and no one should be forced to unwillingly endure these. HB 3218 would unconstitutionally ban abortions based on someone's personal reasoning including in cases of a lethal fetal diagnosis. Finding out that a wanted pregnancy is not viable is heartbreaking enough without having the government tell you what is best for you and your unborn child. Why should a mother be forced to wait for a miscarriage or to carry a baby to term that has no chance of survival and may suffer upon birth? This should be a personal decision. It is impossible to predict what situations might arise

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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 3218.

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 compassionate care for those of us already here. We are the ones who need you. Thank you for listening.

Nancy Cunningham

Self

Red Oak, TX

As a grandmother of 24 and volunteer at a pregnancy center I urge you to understand the meaning of life at conception and need for protection of that like as if it was your own. There are always options besides killing the baby.

Julie Campbell

none

AUSTIN, TX

This bill 3218 will not only interfere with patient - doctor decision making and confidentiality but also forces woman to carry to term non-viable fetuses. Oh but wait, palliative care is provided. So, for months women and their families must suffer knowing that a pregnancy will have a devastating outcome, but the State of Texas knows best! NO

Susan Taylor

self

Canyon Lake, TX

Re HB 3218 & SB 1173-- the "reason" ban. This is against reason. It is a power play that strips women of their agency over their bodies. It strips women of their right. It is nothing more than a push for women to have no say with a pregnancy, but to be forced into reproductive servitude and a life-threatening condition. This goes against a woman's human rights. Reject this bill. Preserve women's access to their chosen healthcare for their bodies.

Lillian Neal

Self

Sweetwater, TX

Please support this bill. The unborn should not be discriminated against and brought to death through no fault of their own. It should be illegal to sacrifice children and those participating in it should be brought to justice. Thank you.

Barbara Select

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Self - retired

Dallas, TX

This is an attack on women's rights and would force women to find an unsafe practitioner 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!

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 3218

Laurie Coffin

N/A

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3218. The reason ban proposed in HB 3218 would force women to carry a pregnancy to term, regardless of the viability of the fetus.

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.

Debra Leff

Self

Austin, TX

I, Debra Leff, am against this bill. Perinatal palliative care, that is so out of reality. These abortions are performed in the first trimesters, this would just add more onerous requirements on a procedure that is done so early, there is not a reason for this. Why should we remove compassion exemptions? I worked with children with special needs for 40 years. Yes, some parents are able to handle a child with multiple disabilities, but others are not. Why must we put families through this difficult trial when their decision is hard enough as it is. I'm sure the group will note that someone will "foster" the child. Have you been into these homes? I have. There are often 5 or 6 children with multiple disabilities and some of these families are not equipped to meet all of their needs. It is a very sad story. Please reconsider this bill.

Jeannie Hassell

self / retired

Zapata, TX

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I strongly urge you to support and pass pro-life bill HB 3218, the Preborn NonDiscrimination Act by Representative Matt Schaefer. Texas must act this legislative session to protect all innocent unborn life. Your prompt attention to this pro-life Texas bill is appreciated.

Lisa Stone

self: educator

Houston, TX

I join all those--a majority of Texans--who oppose political efforts to attack women's health care by diminishing abortion rights and access.

HB 3218 unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

I strongly oppose this bill for the following reasons:

-The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified.

-Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

-This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

I ask you to oppose HB 3218, as well as all other HBs that seek to limit abortion rights and access.

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!

Isabel Ray, Mrs.

self; communications

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3218. Only a pregnant person should be able to determine whether or not they remain pregnant—not the committee members, not the state, not anyone besides that person.

HB 3218 will force people with desperately wanted but non-viable pregnancies to carry dead or dying babies inside them for weeks—it is terribly cruel and far from "protecting life," it needlessly puts families in medical danger.

Additionally, HB 3218 will lead to racial discrimination based on Asian stereotypes. The bill claims to protect unborn babies based on sex, but 92 percent of abortions occur before sex can even be determined. This non-medical bill will place undue scrutiny on Texans of Asian descent who are simply accessing their constitutional right to bodily autonomy.

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 3218 and urge all members of the committee to vote against the bill.

Kimberly Mull, Mrs

Self/ rancher+ laser tech

San Angelo, TX

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I am proud to live in the great State of Texas, and extremely proud to encourage your support of this bill to end discrimination against the Unborn.

Every life in Texas should be protected equally without prejudice. It is appalling that it is legal for any group of citizens to be exterminated on a whim.

Please support this bill to protect our most oppressed citizens.

Mary Mabry

self

Spring, TX

I, like the majority of Americans, want abortion to be safe and legal, without government interference, penalty, or restriction.

Carol Ortiz, Ms.

self/retired

Montgomery, TX

I OPPOSE HB 3218. Please vote NO; do not pass this bill out of committee.

Danna Ghafir

Self

Sugar Land, TX

My name is Danna Ghafir, and I am a medical student in Texas, and I OPPOSE HB 3218. 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 3218 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 justice, and the primacy of patient welfare. HB 3218 unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

As a medical student with expertise in the science of reproductive healthcare, I urge you to OPPOSE HB 3218, which will prove to be extremely dangerous to the health of Texans, including my future patients.

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

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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

Jennifer Conner, MRS.

self; music teacher

The Woodlands, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3218. Abortion care IS health care. This bill removes the right a woman has to terminate a pregnancy that would result in a child that would not be able to function in our society. This bill removes the right a woman has to make that decision. Does this bill offer to help this woman pay for the needs of raising a special needs child? Does this bill include money for the woman to purchase the equipment and medications and surgeries needed to raise a child with special needs in our society? Does this bill offer the woman ANYTHING post pregnancy to assist with this special needs child?? NO The government has no right to force it's citizens to make such a choice. It is up to the woman what she wants to do. OPPOSE HB 3218.

Kathleen Davis

Self, Office Manager

DALLAS, TX

My name is Kathleen Davis and I oppose bill HB3218. Making a woman carry an unviable fetus to term is just torture. Taking away all forms of safe legal abortions and criminalizing them 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 HB3218.

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 before, during and after birth. Providing the mother with options and information for prenatal care is very important to help with the decision to let the child live.

Sylvia Campbell

self

The Woodlands, TX

Dear Committee Members,

I encourage you to oppose HB 3218. This bill seems to offer "palliative care" but instead it adds to the burden of a woman in the unfortunate situation of knowing that there are medical issues with her pregnancy. What a difficult situation for anyone! Please do not make it even more painful for a woman trying to make the best decision. It is her body, her health, her future. Other people should not be making the decisions for her.

Thank you,

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Sylvia Campbell

daniel kanter, REV. Dr.

first unitarian church of dallas

dallas, TX

This bill removes the exception for non-viable pregnancies from the 20 week abortion ban, forcing those patients to travel out of state for care. no burden should be put on a woman to have a necessary and reasonable medical procedure.

Lorri Haden

Self/Retired

Austin, TX

My name is Lorri Haden, I am representing myself, and I oppose HB 3218.

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 available the necessary supports for parents to care for children with complex medical needs. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 3218.

Christine Hurley

self

Houston, TX

My name is Christine Hurley and I oppose House Bill 3218. This bill doesn't protect anyone -- it forces pregnant people to carry non-viable pregnancies to term. It is beyond cruel and just another boring re-imagining of politicians to control reproductive healthcare. No one but a pregnant person and their doctor should have any influence on continuing a pregnancy. Reject this harmful, cruel bill.

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.

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?

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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?

Rebecca Marques

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose this dangerous bill.

Crystal Gonzalez

Self - resident of San Antonio, TX

San Antonio, TX

My name is Crystal Gonzalez and I oppose House Bill 3218,

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

It is a Texans' own right to choose whether or not they wish to continue a pregnancy and should not be determined by the state.

Allison Greer Francis

Individual-mental health

San Antonio, TX

I am opposed to HB 3218. 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.

Christine Middleton

Self Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

This is another cruel bill. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are

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worthy or justified. It is designed to shame and coerce women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Do not pass this bill.

Tom Nobis
self - retired
Houston, TX

I am Tom Nobis representing myself. I rise in favor of HB3218 the PreBorn NonDiscriminatio Act.
HB 3218 Schaefer | et al. Relating 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.

This is Companion Bill to SB1173 that has passed the Senate and has been received in the House.

All humans are created in the image of God. All unborn children are created in the image of God irrespective of any suspected "fetal anomaly" or "disability." Selective abortion of the unborn child because of its sex, race, disability, anomaly, or age of gestation is discriminatory to that unborn child.

The Preborn Nondiscrimination Act would ban discriminatory abortion based on the preborn child's race, sex, or disability; eliminate the remaining late-term abortions; and connect families to life-affirming social and medical services.

Plank 273 of the Texas Republican Platform calls for this legislation as it states: We support legislation such as the Preborn Non-Discrimination Act (Pre-NDA) to close existing discriminatory loopholes that fail to protect preborn children suspected of having a "fetal anomaly" or disability, and we support legislation to enact anti-discriminatory language to apply additional protections to preborn children at risk of being aborted because of their sex, race, disability, or age of gestation, in addition to providing families with information about life-affirming social and medical services available to them in Texas, such as perinatal palliative care.

While medical science has improved, it still doesn't always get it right. What may be detected as potential disability does not always turn out so. As medical science grows, so does the ability to overcome disabilities. School Choice also has a role in overcoming disabilities.

There are 32 authors & co-authors to this bill.

In the previous session of the legislature, a similar bill SB1033 passed the Senate but died in the House.

I urge you not to let this happen again and please vote to pass this bill out of committee to proceed to calendars for a hearing on the floor.

Thank you for consideration of my comments.

Michele Scott
self
Snyder, TX

My name is Michele Scott and I oppose House Bill 3218.

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

I urge you to reject this bill.

Laura Weaver

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self, retired

Spring, TX

Please opposed HB 3218. It is the right of the parents and their doctors, not the State, to determine the viability of a fetus and know whether or not they have the ability to care for a child that is severely disabled. By requiring that a mother give birth to a severely disabled child, you tasking her with a lifelong commitment for which she will receive very little support from the State or society. For some families, this will create an unendurable hardship.

DORA VANN

SELF RETIRED

SAN ANTONIO, TX

My name is Dora Vann. This is another bill about controlling my body against my will. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. I am appalled that you think I am a simpleton or child. These are MY choices to make, no others. Please ban this bill.

Jenna Vershen

self/massage therapist

Dallas, TX

My name is Jenna and I oppose House Bills 1515, 1280, 2337, 2313, 3218, and 3760.

The attempted banning of abortion doesn't stop abortions: it just makes them more illegal, and more dangerous, ultimately causing more harm and grief to the providers and recipients.

In regards to removal of compassionate exception in HB 3218, regardless of your beliefs on abortion in the case of a potentially healthy baby, forcing a mother to carry a nonviable pregnancy until she miscarries is cruel and unusual punishment for something completely outside of the family's control. I cannot stand by thinking of the undue grief of the parents, and the helpless position this bill would put medical providers of safe abortions into.

I care about abortion access not only because it allows self-agency of one's own body, but also because it can prove a second start for children who have been raped and teens who want to plan their college career before their family. I personally witnessed two of the teen mothers at my high school (there were so many, we had a two page photo in the yearbook) be outright mocked by a teacher when they said they had applied to community college. One of the girls even found out she was pregnant with twins which is a massive financial burden, let alone for a high schooler.

I oppose these bills because they don't stop abortion, they just make them more illegal and more dangerous. And maybe that's the point, for some of you. But I urge you to think just for a moment on the people - whether they are children now or merely once were - whose lives you will be making better by rejecting this harmful, dangerous legislation. Protect your fellow Texans and their lives.

All my best.

Cindy Fountain

self/merchandiser

Cleburne, TX

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I oppose HB 3218. It is an authoritarian bill to control whole families' and people's lives by the State. The State does not have the right to violate a pregnant person's privacy, nor that pregnant person's family privacy, nor the privacy between a pregnant person and their health care giver.

VANESSA LOZADA

SELF; HEALTHCARE ADMINISTRATION

Fort Worth, TX

My name is Vanessa Lozada, and I oppose House Bill 3218. 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

self

Plano, TX

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

Tamera Jennings

self

Haltom City, TX

I am thankful for the 32 sponsors of this bill. Thank you for taking a stand for those who cannot stand for themselves. I ask that this bill be passed for the sake of those who have the right to life. I cannot stress enough and have noted in my other comments for the other bills coming up for vote but each and every person that is in the room had the opportunity to be born and make a difference. I understand that we those on both sides of the aisle and I don't agree with many things that are promoted on the other side. However, right to life should be foundational. Thank you for considering my comments and concerns.

Misty Boyd

Self/Author

League City, TX

My name is Misty Boyd, and I was born in Texas on my father's birthday in 1983 with a birth defect called spina bifida. If my defect had been caught on ultrasound, my doctor stated that he would have "taken care of this sooner." He did not mean spina bifida repair, or anything that could have improved my quality of life. He was referring to abortion. As I was already born though, traditional abortion was no longer an option. Instead, his solution was to withhold feeding and treatment and allow a "natural" death. My parents were told I would never walk, never talk, and never be independent. I would be severely mentally disabled. They would be burdened with my full time care until I died, which likely wouldn't take long, but my life would be filled with suffering and pain as long as it lasted. My parents were told the only merciful path was to end my life by starvation. I cannot imagine bringing a new baby into the world, only to be told to ignore her hunger cries. Let her die while she cries out for

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nourishment and love. Obviously, since I am writing you today, my parents told the doctor what he could do with that idea. Fast forward 37 years. I am fully independent. I would like to think I have some level of intelligence. I am married and a published author. If I were able to be there in person today, you would see me walk into the room with a slight limp. That is far from the "she'll never walk," prognosis my parents were given, and walking or not is truly the least of my worries. What I do worry about is the thousands of babies diagnosed with pre-existing conditions, and their parents who will be put in the same position my parents were. No parent deserves to be put in the position to end the life of their child based on "what-ifs" and the guessing game that was predicting my future. I have a what if for all of you. What if the prognosis is wrong? What if that baby only needs a chance. Nourishment. Support. Love. What if we let God decide what a baby will do? What if they become everything doctors said they couldn't? We must pass HB3218 so babies like me can become everything God intends them to be. Thank you.

Michelle Tesch

Self

Farmers Branch, TX

When an abortion fails and the baby lives, please encourage legislation to care for that baby, not just let it die!

Please prohibit abortions for Down's syndrome and other abnormalities, or for choosing gender!

Lori Boyter

Self

Haltom City, TX

I support this bill 100%. It's about time!

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 entity (person, organization or law) 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.

Danna Half

self

San Antonio, TX

A doctor patient relationship is sacred. This law will be a HIPAA violation and is a giant government overreach. This won't stop abortions, it will only stop safe and legal abortions and will waste (more) taxpayer money losing in court.

Elisa Gonzalez

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

Another example of unfettered governmental interference into people's lives.

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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.

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 3218. 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 3218, as this bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say,

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this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. 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.

Sara Groti, Mrs

Self /stay at home mom

San Angelo, TX

When I was pregnant with my son, the doctors detected through ultrasounds some issues with his kidneys. They warned me he may need surgery right after birth. But when he was born, he was 100% healthy and needed no medical attention. Some of my friends were told their babies would have downs syndrome, only to be pleasantly surprised at birth that the baby did not in fact have downs. Some of us were told our babies gender wrong, and were surprised to find out we were having a girl instead of the boy we were told we were having.

My point is, Dr's, ultrasounds, technicians, blood tests and machines are not always correct. We have come a long way in science and medicine, but there are still so much we dont know, and so many times when we receive wrong diagnosis.

So imagine an abortion is performed based on any of this information my friends and I were given, only to find out later, that information was wrong.

A life would have been taken, based on wrong medical information.

My husband and I have decided NOT to do any tests during my pregnancies, to determine wether the baby would have downs syndrome or any other thing that we knew the doctors could do nothing about. We decided that our baby would be loved no matter what, and we didnt wanna know. Babies that have down syndrome are still babies. Still human. They still have value just as much as any other baby.

Same goes with autism, spina-bifida and many other medical conditions. Life has value, always. Even if your baby's life looks different than what you thought it would.

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.

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 3218. This bill is a violation of patient privacy and rights to choose the best medical care for themselves and their families. It would force people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Reject HB 3218.

Maureen Powers

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retired

Austin, TX

I oppose this bill for the reason that it imposes a truly horrific penalty on a woman who has the tragic experience of carrying a non-viable pregnancy. Are you human?

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 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?

Amanda Stoffels

self-educator

Keller, TX

Preborn NonDiscrimination Act (PreNDA) is moving in the right direction for abolishing abortion. Ending the remaining late-term abortions still occurring in Texas is a must as these babies have heartbeats and will live outside the womb if not murdered in the delivery room! Please stop murder by stopping abortions in Texas. Banning discriminatory abortions motivated by the preborn child's sex, race, or suspected disability is needed in order to continue to fight against abortions in Texas. Providing perinatal palliative care services to families facing a life-limiting diagnosis for their child is a much better way to spend tax dollars!

Josh Higgins

self, graphic designer

Spring, TX

My name is Josh Higgins and I oppose HB 3218. This bill is another bill intruding on Texan's freedom to make their own decisions and right to privacy. The state should not be intruding on any treatments or health decisions a person and/or their doctor has chosen. Patients deserve confidentiality. I urge you all to vote no on this bill and any similar bills to preserve our privacy and Texan's rights

Lauren Fazio

Self

Austin, TX

My name is Lauren Fazio, and I oppose House Bill 3218. As a proud Texan and US 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

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we value private businesses to regulate themselves, we as people should be able to regulate our bodies thus impacting 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. The addition of unnecessary barriers to the process of accessing healthcare is unconstitutional, and a direct attack on an individual's access to choice. Anti-choice legislation has NO place in Texans' lives and directly violates our local values and constitution. I strongly urge you all to reject HB 3218.

Karen Wells

Self

Houston, TX

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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.

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.

Carly Hudson, Mrs

Self

Kingwood, TX

I oppose any legislation that further restricts access to abortion. Abortion is my legal right.

Brenda Mondragon

self/unemployed

HOUSTON, TX

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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.

Natasha Rappazzo

Planned Parenthood Greater Texas

Arlington, TX

My name is natasha rappazzo and i oppose hb 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state should never be able to decide what is or is not a valid reason for accessing healthcare. If the state gets to decide what is a legit reason for an abortion when does it end? You cannot boardly make medical decisions for people. This is a cruel piece of legislation that coerces people to carry pregnancys that are not viable. Let patients make their own medical decisions with their doctors - not with representative schaefer!! oppose hb 3218

Lucy Wimmer

Self

AUSTIN, TX

My name is Lucy Wimmer and I am writing in opposition to HB 3218.

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

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Andrew Perretta

N/A

Schertz, TX

Hello. My name is Andrew Perretta. I'm a voting constituent in Guadalupe County. I oppose HB 3218. 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

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taxpayer, I don't want public funds used to defend these unconstitutional bills in federal courts.

Please vote no on this bill. Thank you.

Katie O'leary

Self

irving, TX

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The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

Piper Madland

Self

HOUSTON, TX

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified.

I strongly oppose this bill which unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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 criminalize healthcare. Do not pass this bill

shamyra coleman

Planned Parenthood of Texas

shiner, TX

his bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

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Barbara Select

Self - retired

Dallas, TX

My name is Barbara and I oppose HB 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

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Marie LeBlanc

self, program director

Austin, TX

My name is Marie LeBlanc and I opposed House Bill HB 3218. 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 create unnecessary judgement and shame around a variety of valid reasons why a woman might seek abortion care. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. 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 creates unnecessary barriers for women accessing the health care they need.

Madelyn Morneault

self

Austin, TX

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Anita Knight

AAUW

West Lake Hills, TX

I am in favor of safe and legal abortion that is the decision between a mother and her doctor, and is currently protected by the Constitution and Supreme Court decisions. The American Association of University Women has long supported a woman's RIGHT TO CHOICE.

Amber Donley

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Amber Donley and I oppose HB 3218. This bill is NOT pro-life it is pro-BIRTH, clearly this bill does NOT care about the LIFE of the fetus or the woman carrying the child.

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

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I strongly encourage you to oppose this bill.

Jennie Gilchrist

Park Cities Republican Women

Dallas, TX

Support this bill, in particular aborted for gender or disability reasons. Encourage women to bring forth life, many organizations will care for the child if the parents cannot.

Sonya Roberts

Self (Occupation: Manager)

Austin, TX

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Maureen Tomasino

self

San Antonio, TX

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Ollie Miles

self

Sugar Land, TX

This bill places extensive restrictions on how and when a provider can provide medication abortion. Mifepristone, the medication used in a medication abortion, is already subject to FDA restrictions and has a proven safety record.

Medication abortion is extremely safe and effective and gives patients the option to end their pregnancy at home or in another setting in which they feel comfortable, while still providing them with the medical support and information they need.

Any attempt to restrict medication abortion is clearly motivated by politics, not science.

This bill is in direct conflict with the FDA label. In April 2019, the FDA approved the first generic form of mifepristone, following a review of the evidence that medication abortion is a safe, effective way to end an early pregnancy — with a safety record of over 99%.

This bill takes enforcement decisions out of the hands of local governments.

Michael Youngquist

Self

Austin, TX

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

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Forcing someone who does not want to be pregnant to carry a pregnancy to term or miscarriage treats people with uteruses as nothing more than walking incubators. Before harvesting organs from a deceased person for an organ transplant, the person must have given consent to give a part/parts of their body for that purpose before death. Why, then, are people with uteruses being forced to use that part of their body in a way that they do not consent to? Why are living people with uteruses being treated with less respect than a corpse?

Heather Benedetto

Self, public school teacher

Richardson, TX

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I am opposed to this bill. 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.

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 to do it themselves.

Adrienne Nisbet

self/ teacher

San Antonio, TX

My name is Adrienne Nisbet and I oppose House Bill 3218. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Please reject HB 3218.

Noel Madland

Self, student

Houston, TX

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ASHLEY CONWAY

Self

GLENN HEIGHTS, TX

I understand that one of the biggest issues surrounding the argument of abortion is women's health. My concern in this matter is not just the fact that what is inside of the woman is life, but the health concerns and increased risks in disease after an abortion, along with the mental and emotional health of the woman. We speak so much, as people on mental health concerns, but allow procedures that have bad affects on the mental and emotional health of women in this regards. We have organizations asking for funding for cancer research and heart disease, but fail to address the fact that abortions increase these risks, which happen to be leading causes of death amongst women. We sweep the after affects of this "procedure" under the rug and try to pretend it's not there. However, if I sweep dirt and toxic waste under my rug, it doesn't mean those things aren't there and the stench and further consequences will eventually catch up to us! How can we advocate for mental and emotional health and fund health organizations, but allow for abortions to go unchecked. I don't say this without the knowledge that 2 of the biggest arguments are the life of a mother and a situation of rape. While I have compassion for these situations and if this was a large percentage of cases involved in abortions, there may be an argument for this. However, that is not the case. A majority of cases for abortions is because of either a financial burden or unuse of birth control. Again, while I empathize with these situations, they don't make the

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ending of life right nor do they justify it! Thank you for your time.

Mitchell Nisbet

Self, biologist

San Antonio, TX

Hi my name is Mitch Nisbet and I oppose HB 3218 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.

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.

Erich Ehlinger

Self

Devine, TX

Please take up HB 3326 for consideration in lieu of HB 3218. With Biden threatening to make abortion a constitutional "right" we need a bill that puts the federal government in its place. Texans know the value of human life and we should have the opportunity to protect it from conception regardless of what age the Supreme Court deems it worthy of protection.

Rebecca Rodgers

self

Arlington, TX

I am writing in support of HB3218. Late-Term Abortion should be terminated in Texas. There is no excuse to terminate a fully developed life. In simple terms, it is murder and should not be legal. Thank you for fighting for precious lives.

Evelin Garcia

self

Kyle, TX

My name is Evelin Garcia, and I oppose House Bill 3218.

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.

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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.

Sabina Madland

self, student

Houston, TX

My name is Sabina Madland and I oppose HB 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. I urge you to reject this legislation.

Rebecca Rodgers

Self

ARLINGTON, TX

I am writing in support of HB3218. This bill helps to educate parents of an unborn child with critical illness of resources to help in the care of their unborn child. It helps to eliminate unnecessary abortions allowing for the protection of innocent lives. Thank you for fighting for the lives of the innocent.

Brian Rogers

self, computer programmer

Farmers Branch, TX

I oppose HB 3218 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.

Leslie Eames Piece

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. Creating a criminal offense for seeking medical care for one's reproductive health is taking away women's civil rights.

Amanda Bennett

Self; project manager

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3218. Please see comments for the very similar bill, HB 3760 by Oliverson, for a full explanation. This bill is cruel and harmful.

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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

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!

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.

Blair Wallace, Policy & Advocacy Strategist

ACLU of Texas

Houston, TX

Written Testimony Against House Bill 3218 by:

Blair Wallace

Policy & Advocacy Strategist

American Civil Liberties Union of Texas

Dear Chairwoman and Members of the Public Health Committee:

HB 3218 is an unconstitutional bill that would ban abortion based on the alleged reason for having an abortion. The bill creates criminal penalties at the level of a Class A misdemeanor for doctors who violate the law and creates a civil cause of action against the doctor.

HB 3218 would be an unconstitutional hindrance to a woman's access to abortion care. In states that have tried implementing abortion bans like HB 3218 has led to costly litigation and those challenges have been successful. The Supreme Court ruled in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* that until the point when a fetus can survive outside the womb, or viability, the state cannot block any woman from accessing abortion care. HB 3218 violates this constitutional requirement. The proposal would ban abortion based on a woman's reason for seeking one—at any point in pregnancy, in clear disregard of the decades of precedent protecting every woman's constitutional right to access abortion prior to viability.

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The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals has found a similar law unconstitutional stating: “The non-discrimination provisions clearly violate this well-established Supreme Court precedent, and are therefore, unconstitutional. The provisions prohibit abortions prior to viability if the abortion is sought for a particular purpose. These provisions are far greater than a substantial obstacle; they are absolute prohibitions on abortions prior to viability which the Supreme Court has clearly held cannot be imposed by the State.” *Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky, Inc. v. Commissioner of the Indiana State Dep’t of Health*, 888 F.3d 300 (7th Cir. 2018). Similar laws in Ohio and Kentucky have also been blocked from going into effect due to court challenges.

Removing the severe fetal anomaly exception to the 20-week ban is inhumane. HB 3218 removes the exception for the scenarios where there is a “severe and irreversible” diagnosis or where a fetus is not viable. For a woman who must face the choice of terminating a wanted child because that child is incompatible with life, HB 3218 is not about abortion. It is about making the best choices for her health and her family, and as such, it is a deeply personal decision that should be left to each woman in consultation with her health care provider. We cannot know all the personal and medical circumstances behind a woman’s decision to continue or end a pregnancy, and therefore we should not try to legislate a one size fits all model. On behalf of the tens of thousands of Texans we represent we oppose this legislation on the strongest of terms and encourage the members of this committee not to refer this bill out of committee.

Charlotte Fiehn

Self

Cypress, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3218 and urge its rejection. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person’s private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person’s reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one’s own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Prioritizing a fetus - viable or not - over the the autonomy and well-being of women is a gross demonstration of sexism and needs to be opposed.

Briana Martinez

Self, student

Alamo, TX

My name is Briana Martinez and I oppose House Bill 3218.

Denying Texan families the right to decide whether they want to carry a pregnancy to full term is nearly inhuman, especially knowing the end result is nonviable fetus. 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. If you care about Texans, you will defend a person’s right to safe access to abortions.

Sandra Barnes

Texas citizen

Quinlan, TX

Stop abortion

Elizabeth Davison

Self

Weatherford, TX

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I am against HB3218, as it does not provide equal protection for all preborn children. It sends the message that you can kill your baby as long as it is healthy. This is evil, just as it is evil to kill children with special needs. This bill should be thrown out and HB3326 should receive full support. It is the only bill that would treat all preborn children without partiality.

Guy McCord

Self

Irving, TX

I wholeheartedly support TRTL position on this bill

Joseph Barker

Self

Dallas, TX

We have a separation of church and state. Your beliefs need not dictate another person's life.

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

Barbara Sargent

Retired/Self

El Paso, TX

HB 3218/ SB 1173: Reason Ban and Removal of the Compassionate Exception

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. You have no idea how this makes a woman feel, knowing that the fetus that she is carrying will not survive and making her carry it full term, it's like having your heart cut out while you're awake and feeling everything. This shows no empathy or decency.

Adam Rigel

Self

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Garland, TX

Hello, my name is Jocelyn Rigel and I oppose HB 3218. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person or couples who are facing a horrifying diagnosis into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Texas prides itself on being a state where self reliance is applauded, but in passing this bill we are becoming a nanny state. Please opposed HB 3218.

Adam Rigel

Self

Garland, TX

Hello, my name is Adam Rigel and I oppose HB 3218. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person or couples who are facing a horrifying diagnosis into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Texas prides itself on being a state where self reliance is applauded, but in passing this bill we are becoming a nanny state. Please opposed HB 3218.

Angela Ward

Self

San Angelo, TX

I am for HB 3218. Please consider this bill and please put an end to killing the most innocent of lives. God created life and we should not be ending life of any human outside or inside the womb. Life is life. We can't play double standards when thinking about murder. I am a woman and I do get to choose about my body. If I chose to abstain from sex then I will not have to choose murder. If I am raped, my body was violated, but I can make a choice about the life that follows. I can give this child up for adoption to a loving family, or I can show love to the child and teach him/her to be a good human. Life isn't a choice we get to decide upon.

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.

Mireya Trevino

self, program specialist

Austin, TX

My name is Mireya and I oppose house bill 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's most private decisions and alleged reason for seeking abortion care, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. Not only is HB 3218 cruel by forcing someone to continue carrying a non-viable pregnancy, it completely disregards the autonomy of the pregnant person. Contrary to what proponents may say, HB 3218 does not protect anyone. The

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decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. 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 HB 3218. Thank you.

Karen Eudy

Self

Royse City, TX

This is a discriminatory bill. All innocent living human beings are required to have equal protection under the law.

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.

Larry Morton

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Reject the continued regulation of abortion and immediately hear HB 3326 which would completely abolish abortion in Texas.
Thank you

Megan Brannen

ACLU/AVOW/Sunrise/AllyTees/ConcernedCitizensEverywhere

Austin, TX

My name is Megan Brannen and I STRONGLY OPPOSE House Bill 3218 / SB 1173.

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 I MIGHT 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.

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

I want a baby more than anything, but if I will die having the child, or be put at high risk with a miscarriage, don't I deserve the right to life? This would be a challenging decision for my family as well -- if we should be blessed with a baby that is healthy I will of course be happy to carry it to term and have it in a hospital where I can find adequate care -- but forcing women to carry out pregnancies that are harmful to their baby or to themselves is suicide, and goes against my Christian faith.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary

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to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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.

I strongly urge you to REJECT this legislation.

Frank Netscher

Self

AUSTIN, TX

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

Kate Harslem

SELF

Austin, TX

WOULD YOU MAKE YOUR DAUGHTER CARRY A FETUS TO TERM EVEN IF IT WAS DEAD? THAT'S JUST CRUEL. YOU LITERALLY HAVE NO SOUL IF YOU THINK THIS BILL IS OKAY.

YOU POLITICIANS NEED TO STAY THE FUCK OUT OF OUR UTERUSES. WHY DO YOU FEEL THE URGE TO CONTROL OUR UTERUSES? STOP. TRYING. TO. BRING. US. DOWN. WOMEN ARE STRONGER THAN MEN AND YOU WOMEN WHO SIDE WITH THESE MEN WHO BELIEVE CONTROLLING OTHER WOMEN, THERE IS SOMETHING SERIOUS AWRY WITH YOUR BRAIN. YOU HAVE A UTERUS AND YET YOU WANT A MAN TO TELL YOU WHAT TO DO.....WHY?

THINK ABOUT YOUR DAUGHTERS, MOTHERS AND WIVES. WOULD YOU SUPPORT THEM IF THEY NEEDED AN ABORTION? MAKE A GOOD DECISION HERE.

Sharon Mineo

Self

Austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified.

Denise Gordon

Self/Clinical Social Worker

Round Rock, TX

Public Health Committee Members and Reps Schaefer and Oliverson: Once again, the sponsors and co-sponsors of HB 3218 and 3760 are trying to regulate women's bodies and choices by legislating criminal penalties for performing abortions. There are some short, useful sections to these Bills, but they are overridden by the criminal penalties that can be brought by anyone!

This is not frontier justice: this is the TX Legislature trying to impose their will on medical practitioners and limit a woman's

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choice in TX. Have any of you who sponsor these Bills ever had to deal with the devastation of learning that your fetus is medically unviable or has a catastrophic condition? Palliative care is appropriate, but NOT legislated by the State of TX.

Stop being hypocrites and pretending that you care! Stop trying to penalize medical providers who actually are trying to help women who request abortions as opposed to all of you who only want to pretend to care!

Help those living in TX by expanding Medicaid and properly funding our schools. Offer free and widely available birth control. Provide appropriate funding to public agencies to pay therapists living wages so therapy is available to all who need it. Offer free, optional decision-making counseling exploring all options and stop trying to criminalize those who try to assist women in the name of justice and self-righteousness. Those of you who consider yourselves Christians or even of faith ought to be ashamed at even considering this legislation.

Pass Legislation that is needed in TX, stop wasting your time and our taxpayer's money by considering unnecessary and restrictive legislation that is harmful!

HB 3218 and 3760 must be defeated!

Joan Dodson

Self

Weatherford, TX

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

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.

Brenda Frank, Retired teacher

Self

Tomball, TX

Dear House Public Committee Representatives ,

My name is Brenda Frank and I am writing to express my opinion on HB 3218 which ends late term abortions still occurring in Texas. I am FOR this bill. Please vote YES for HB3218.

Thank you,

Brenda Frank

8324438449

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 Bills 3218. 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.

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THEODORE RAYMOND, Mr

self

Cleveland, TX

At least this bill calls itself a regulation of abortion. I urge the committee to end the practice of regulating abortion. Give HB3326 a hearing and abolish abortion in Texas.

Sally Tutor, Mrs.

Self, Home-maker

Burnet, TX

It's commendable to seek to protect the unborn from abortions based on prejudice against race, sex, or physical or mental anomalies. I agree that no doctor should in any way pressure a mother to abort her child for these or any other reason.

However, what about protecting a child from a mother who seeks a prejudicial abortion? Why is there no penalty for a woman who decides she only wants to carry a female child, a physically perfect child, etc.? Where is the protection for that child? HB 3218 also leaves a gaping hole for those children who are less than by 20 weeks gestational age. What about a younger pre-born child? Our Texas Constitution protects the life of all and recognizes pre-born children as part of that "all". This bill falls short in that area.

I'm thankful for the parts of this bill that guarantee a mother would be given information about resources available to her and her child. I would love to see this bill amended to keep those sections, but to change the protective clauses to include ALL pre-born children. Trying to protect only those who may meet prejudice protects no one, because a prejudiced mother doesn't have to mention her reason, and an abortionist's best interest is served by not asking.

To reiterate, the merit of this bill is to keep a doctor from pressuring a mother to seek an abortion and to be sure she receives all the help available.

If HB 3326 were given a hearing and passed, every child would be protected and most of this bill would be unnecessary. I ask that you amend this bill to protect all pre-born children or set it aside and bring HB 3326 before this committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Charles Branscum

SELF

Grand Prairie, TX

STOP THE GENOCIDE OF INFANTS IN THE WOMB

Linda Magid

Self

San Antonio, TX

This bill is a red herring and is not meant to help women who are seeking an abortion. There is no scientific evidence that abortion providers discriminate based on race or nationality. This is a myth that is used by anti-abortion legislators to put up as many roadblocks to this health care service as possible. Texans need the Public Health committee to resolve real health crises like affordable health care, rural access to hospitals, and COVID-19 vaccination access. Please do not consider it.

Rachel Gollay

self

Fort Worth, TX

I oppose HB 3218 and urge our state leaders to do the same. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will

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until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Please oppose HB 3218.

Phyllis Duzan

Self

League City, TX

I oppose!

Jana Colgate

self

Center Point, TX

I oppose this bill.

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.

Edith Corbitt

Self

Whitney, TX

I'm opposed to any government regulation limiting a patient's choice. Healthcare decisions are between the patient and healthcare professionals.

Jeana Nam

self, counselor

Houston, TX

I oppose House Bill 3218 because it unconstitutionally bans abortions based on a person's private decision-making, and it forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. It is incredibly cruel, coercive, and intrusive. Decisions about whether or not to continue a pregnancy are personal and should be made by pregnant individuals, their families, and their doctors - not politicians.

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Angelica Martinez

self

Seguin, TX

My name is Angie Martinez and i oppose HB 3218. Women should have the right to make personal decisions about their body- especially depending on the medical situation regarding it. I oppose this HB

Laura Braley

Self

Plano, TX

Please make all abortion illegal in our state.

Michelle Morris

Self, financial planner

Missouri City, TX

OPPOSE

Lyndsi Lambert

Self

Austin, TX

I oppose HB 3218.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified.

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

I urge you to reject this unconstitutional legislation.

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.

Hannah Sullivan

Self

Lubbock, TX

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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.

Petraq Weldes, Rev Dr
CSLDallas, a Center for Spiritual Living
Dallas, TX

Our freedom and liberty is based on our ability to choose our lives. These individual choices whether abortion or gun ownership, have no place been arbitrated by government and politicians who are trying to stay in power. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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.

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.

Sara Beckner
Self
Pflugerville, TX

OPPOSE

Carole Wall
Self, Social Work
Cedar Park, TX

The government does not need to be involved in these decisions. Rep Schaefer tries to do this every session and he always fails because families do not outside influences involved in the end of life decisions regarding their children.

Melanie Fletcher
Self writer

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Plano, TX

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

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. This bill is a violation to health & personal privacy which is a right everyone has. 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.

Megan Coppic

Self, Nanny

Kountze, TX

My name is Megan Coppic, and I am against these six proposed bills on abortion. As well as the next one you'll be discussing tomorrow and any in the future as well. But particularly HB 3218, as it is cruel and unusual. How anyone in their right mind could even think this bill passing would be okay is beyond me. Please don't do this.

I'm twenty six years old and very much would like to have a child. If I was to become pregnant and then find out my baby was not viable to continue the pregnancy, were to die within moments of the birth/be stillborn, or found that my baby had died inside me, the best and only option for myself to survive is abortion. I was born with many medical problems that made my childhood miserable and the rest of my life so far difficult even with things being a bit more manageable, I am someone that probably should have been aborted. There are so many reasons why abortion exists, and these bills taking them away is just insane.

Texas claims to be pro-life, but these bills are not that. These bills are anti-choice, and really just politics trying to control people. Anything against abortion is not pro-life, as passing these bills will just cause more deaths.. it will not stop abortions, only safe abortions. Also almost every reason someone comes up with to be against abortion is religious, separation of church and state seems to be forgotten a lot.

Maggie Adams

Self, stay at home parent

Nacogdoches, TX

Oppose. Only women and their healthcare providers should be able to make decisions regarding medical procedures. Restricting access to abortions puts women's lives at risk and takes away their right to choose safe and necessary medical care.

Marc Pitts

Self

Flint, TX

My name is Marc Pitts and I strongly support HB 3218 by Rep. Schaefer. We need to ban discriminatory abortions and affirm the sanctity of human life. Previously, the State of Texas worked to ban the barbaric practice of abortions being performed after 20 weeks based on the premise that these preborn children feel pain. I am outraged that a loophole in Texas law has allowed the continuation of late-term abortions if disability is suspected. Just as we would not tolerate the killing of a disabled individual outside of the womb due to disability or terminal diagnosis, neither should we permit the direct killing of a human being inside

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the womb for similar reasons. The current anti-Life exceptions under Texas law are completely indefensible. All human life is precious, and we need to protect babies with a suspected disability. If the doctors are correct and the baby might be born with a terminal diagnosis, then we need to provide the family with perinatal palliative care. This bill deserves a vote on the House floor and final passage into law.

Heidi Gordon

Self / None

League City, TX

Oppose. Some birth defects are unsustainable to life or are of such severity there would be no quality of life. It's horrible for the government to insert itself into such personal and private family decisions.

Kathryn Motard

Retired

Houston, TX

Oppose any criminal offense being applied to a women's right to choose what is best for her .

Elizabeth Seiders

N/a

Round Rock, TX

Yes to all bills.

Aditya Gollakota

Self - Student

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.

Lexy Garcia

Texas Rising

San Antonio, TX

I strongly oppose this bill and find that the time dedicated to trying to codify human suffering by our texas legislature is egregious and an insult when we have already endured so much and are somehow still surviving and managing to get life saving health care like abortion, despite this state's archaic restrictions and classist barriers. If this is passed, it will force people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The trauma that is wedded into our abortion laws is already so much, and miscarriages like this happen in dire circumstances because of bills already passed. People must be able to feel safe, supported, and loved when seeking an abortion.

Mark Ramsey, P.E.

self / engineer

Spring, TX

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Committee Members:

I support HB 3218. No child should be murdered...especially for discriminatory reasons!

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 person's a person 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

+++

Joni Silva
Self, Silva Lining Voice Over, LLC
Houston, TX

Oppose this bill that is creates fascist like state trying to make healthcare choices criminal offenses. Shame on you! Oppose this bill.

Frank Holman
Self
Austin, TX

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

Emily Domaschk
Self, audit and compliance manager
Elgin, TX

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My name is Emily Domaschk and I oppose HB1280.

This bill is unconstitutional and would force women to carry a nonviable pregnancy to term or until she miscarries. Medical decisions about a pregnancy should involve only a patient and their doctor. And women facing the heartbreak of a lethal fetal diagnosis should not face the additional shame and sorrow of having to fight for effective, timely treatment, or face the additional cost and burden of needing to travel out of state.

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.

Jessica Rauch

self, stay at home mother

Amarillo, TX

My name is Jessica Rauch and I oppose House Bill 3218. I personally oppose this bill because it unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. It is also based in racist beliefs, the belief that people of asian descent would close to have abortions based on sex relies on racist stereotypes that are blatantly false. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing Texans into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. I care about abortion access because I had a very high-risk pregnancy that could have easily killed me and I had the several options including being able to terminate entirely or selectively reduce in order to increase my survival chances as well as giving my fetuses higher chances for survival; and every pregnant person has the right to make their own medical decisions with their medical professional. I oppose this bill because it unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry and I urge you to reject this legislation.

Soraya Dadras

Whole Woman's Health Alliance

Austin, TX

Soraya Dadras, MPH

Austin, TX

OPPOSING House Bill 3218

House Public Health Hearing – April 7, 2021, 8am

My name is Soraya Dadras, MPH, and I am a Clinic Director at Whole Woman's Health Alliance (WWHA). I submit my opposition to House Bill 3218 because it's extreme and poses life-threatening risks to all Texans who become pregnant by forcing them to carry nonviable pregnancies to term. Laws that prohibit abortions for "alleged reasons" rob a person's ability to make the best decisions for them, their bodies, and their futures.

In this bill's language, it wouldn't allow for a pregnant person to have an abortion for any reason past 20-weeks' gestation. Many fetal anomalies aren't detected until 18-21 weeks of pregnancy. That's why a major ultrasound is done in this timeframe. If a fetal anomaly was detected, this bill would take away a person's private decision to terminate a pregnancy. Texans deserve better than to have lawmakers decide next steps for them during a deeply personal medical decision.

Providers should not be forced to second-guess a person's reasons for seeking an abortion. Bans like this discourage honest, confidential conversations and interfere in the provider-patient relationship. Bans like these are cruel and place the motives of

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women under suspicion during a time when they should be trusted. It's for these reasons, I oppose House Bill 3218.

Hannah Thalenberg
Self, abortion funder
Houston, TX

My name is Hannah Thalenberg, and I oppose House Bill 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified.

HB 3218 is particularly callous in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. Rather, it is about coercing people into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Shame on the authors for co-opting language from the disability rights and justice movement to inflict harm on people who are already going through a devastating situation.

Being that this Texas House committee is responsible for promoting public health, I urge you to vote against House Bill 3218.

Rebecca Pierce, Ms.
Self
Gilmer, TX

My name is Rebecca Pierce and I oppose house bill HB 3218.

I personally oppose this bill because many women like me when our option for abortion is taken away we may take actions to extremes. Not only would the failed attempts to perform their own abortions would increase the suicide rate will to. This bill is cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. This bill does not protect anyone if the fetus is already expected to fail or if it is going into the over populated foster care system. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Women should have the choice to live. They should not have the choice between saving a fetus or themselves. This bill will hurt more than help. I ask for you to reconsider because if this bill is passed then so many of your Texan women will die from this bill alone.

Samantha Cox
Self
Port Arthur, TX

Greetings, I am testifying against HB 3218 which is being proposed by Schaefer. As a woman who is nearly 20 weeks pregnant, I can assure you that regulation is not what we need. Women have plenty of information about Perinatal care both online and within a medical facility. While prohibiting abortions that are discriminatory is a nice gesture, it does not do the job. What is the definition of discriminatory? Deaf, Blind, Paralyzed, Developmental Difficulties, etc? What abortions does this bill allow vs not allow? Instead of supporting this bill, you could support a bill that does away with all abortions. HB 3326 rids Texas of abortions permanently and draws a line in the sand, not unlike how we drew a line in the sand at the Alamo. In remembrance of the Alamo, lets support HB 3326. "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." In remembrance of God and His law, lets support HB 3326. Instead of allowing the pro life movement to make money off the backs of dead babies, you could end the practice forever. Thank you.

Plamena Petrova Petrova

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self

League City, TX

Oppose!

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

Opposed!

Brandi Trevino

Self

Katy, TX

Oppose

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. We should certify that you can not discriminate on any of these basis found in the bill, in order to kill your child. You don't get to choose what you have and it should not be allowed to kill based on unchangeable characteristics.

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 preborn children from the moment of fertilization."

I believe this is of the utmost importance that HB 3218 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.

Jillian Lopiano, Dr

Whole Woman's Health

Fort Worth, TX

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My name is Dr. Jillian Lopiano, MD, MPH, FACOG and I am the Texas Medical Director at Whole Woman's Health. I submit my opposition to House Bill 3218 because it's extreme and poses life-threatening risks to all Texans who become pregnant by forcing them to carry nonviable pregnancies to term. Laws that prohibit abortions for "alleged reasons" rob a person's ability to make the best decisions for them, their bodies, and their futures.

In this bill's language, it wouldn't allow for a pregnant person to have an abortion for any reason past 20-weeks' gestation. Many fetal anomalies aren't detected until 18-21 weeks of pregnancy. That's why a major ultrasound is done in this timeframe. If a fetal anomaly was detected, this bill would take away a person's private decision to terminate a pregnancy. Texans deserve better than to have lawmakers decide next steps for them during a deeply personal medical decision.

Providers should not be forced to second-guess a person's reasons for seeking an abortion. Bans like this discourage honest, confidential conversations and interfere in the provider-patient relationship. Bans like these are cruel and place the motives of women under suspicion during a time when they should be trusted. It's for these reasons, I oppose House Bill 3218.

Barbara Dearman

Self

Plano, TX

Oppose

Gabriela Ahlheim, Mrs

self

Azle, TX

I fully support this bill and would urge the committee to package this bill along with the heartbeat act SB 8, HB 1515, SB 917 (Repeal 10 day rule), HB 2609, SB 1674, HB 1424 and give each bill an effective date. There should be no reason why Texas can't lead in being outspoken and bold for pro-life issues this legislative session. If not now? When? Thank you for your time.

Lea Isgur

self

Austin, TX

Oppose! Bad legislation that impedes a woman's right to choose and makes them into criminals. Aweful!

Stephanie Villanueva (she/her)

self - public health graduate student

Cypress, TX

My name is Stephanie Villanueva (she/her), and I oppose House Bill 3218. 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 3218. 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.

Courtney Chambers

self - public health professional

Austin, TX

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My name is Courtney Chambers, MPH and I oppose HB 3218. Decisions about whether or when to continue or end a pregnancy are best made by the pregnant person. Politicians should never force anyone to make decisions about when to become a parent. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

Rachel Pothier

Self

Plano, TX

My name is Rachel Pothier and I oppose House Bill 3218.

I personally oppose this bill as it is cruel and unjust to Texas citizens, and unlawfully controls citizen's private health decisions. Women have a right to the autonomy of their bodies and their decisions.

The state can't be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking an abortion are justified. In addition, politicians should never have the right to force anyone to make decisions about reproduction or becoming a parent against their will. This bill isn't about protecting anyone, it's about forcing women to carry their pregnancies to term, even in cases of a dead fetus or rape.

Abortion access is crucial to maintaining the rights of Texas women. As a young Texas woman myself, I believe that women should always be the ones with the final say about their own medical decisions, not politicians taking the moral high ground in a private situation that does not affect them.

I urge you to reject this legislation. It is cruel to Texas citizens, and invasive in their private lives and decisions that should be kept between them and their healthcare provider.

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.

Amelia Long

Self, nonprofit employee

Austin, TX

I am a Texan against HB 3218. Abortion is healthcare. Bills like this that negatively impact access to abortion 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. 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?

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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.

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.

Julie Grimstad, Mrs.

Healthcare Advocacy & Leadership Org.

Bedford, TX

I support this bill.

Renee Roth

Self

Tyler, TX

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 this bill 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.

Branda Thomas

Decatur Matting and Framing

Decatur, TX

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I am strongly in favor of passing this bill.

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.

Wendy Tomlinson, Dr

NCJW

Austin, TX

Women's bodies must not be regulated by the state. Abortion is a medical procedure, and is a private matter between women and their doctors.

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.

Terri Carriker

Protect Texas Fragile Kids/Register support Self

Austin, TX

Registering in favor of this bill

Gloria Elliott

self/legal assistant

Houston, TX

I urge the committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and to immediately hear HB 3326 which would abolish abortion in Texas. There are too many using abortion as a birth control method and millions of babies are being aborted yearly. The unborn do not have a say as to whether they live or die; please support any pro-life measurements that need to be implemented to help keep our unborn safe.

Vianey Reyes

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Self

EL PASO, TX

Stop trying to fake medical concerns about a standard procedure. Abortion by means of medical practice is standard and when people are at a clinic, they already made their decision. Women and people who menstruate are autonomous people. Do not assume people do not weigh their options before seeking an abortion. As if people don't have access to google. What a snobby assumption that takes away from the intelligence of others. If you want to create your own context to what perinatal palliative care is write a pamphlet but don't force others to read your propaganda-filled nonsense THAT DOES NOT EVEN CREATE AN AVENUE OF MAKING MONEY. This bill is the equivalent of forcing others to listen to your mixtape. I am not here for your pseudo-Christian values clout.

ALSO What is a discriminatory abortion? What does that even mean? The CHOICE to get an abortion is a choice. HOW IS DISCRIMINATION A MEDICAL PROCEDURE? MY GOD! Did you forget how hard it is to get any medical attention in the US? Did you forget how hard it is to get insurance? ESPECIALLY IN A STATE THAT HAS SO MANY UNINSURED AMERICANS because insurance companies are allowed to discriminate based on wealth. Discrimination is a systemic prejudicial treatment of others in order to keep them down. Insurance companies discriminating against the poor is discrimination. But discrimination on a medical procedure (THAT IS USUALLY NOT COVERED BY INSURANCE COMPANIES) is not a thing. Please learn the meaning of words instead of faking pious concern for people who you refuse to understand.

If you want to encourage people to keep the child, GIVE EXPECTING MOTHERS MONEY instead of "perinatal palliative care". MONEY IS A BIG FACTOR FOR SOMEONE'S DECISION TO CONTINUE A BIRTH. We know that your desire to be "conservatively fiscal" is an illusion Republicans say to metaphorically throw the middle finger at poor people. But if your child were to get unexpectedly pregnant, you would probably have the resources to financially assist and to encourage a birth. THAT IS NOT SOMETHING MOST TEXANS HAVE! ESPECIALLY WHEN SEX EDUCATION IS NON-EXISTENT IN TEXAS. BTW TELLING TEENS TO NOT HAVE SEX IS NOT AN EDUCATION.

If anything there should be a bill forcing you lawmakers to confront the comments and face your privilege when creating your ridiculous bills. Clearly y'all need perspective. Something you won't get if you only interact with white privileged people on a spiritual journey to lessen their guilt but keep their privilege.

autumn keiser

self. Director of Marketing and Communications

Austin, TX

I am writing in opposition to HB 3218. As a parent it is my beloved duty to protect and care for my children - to navigate their healthcare and other DAILY decisions that determine their future, health, and safety. If my child had a chronic or fatal illness, it would be my job to determine the best course of treatment for their overall wellbeing. As humans we know that, out of love and fierce protection of that child, sometimes those decisions include NOT extending the life of a child. Parenting is complicated and often frightening. But the law of this state and this country make it clear it is MY responsibility as their parent to make those choices. I believe my responsibilities as a parent begin during pregnancy and can be just as complicated and frightening as after they are born. Why trust my judgement in caring and protecting my living children if you cannot trust my judgement in determining the fate of a fetus growing inside me? Particularly as the fate of that pregnancy is interlocked at every level with my own personal health and liberty. This bill attempts to intervene in some of the most painful decisions a parent must face with a heart already burdened by the needs of that future child. It is offensive and unnecessary to assert the will of strangers ignorant to an individual's unique medical and life circumstances. You do not do this when a Texan faces removing a parent from life support or ceasing chemotherapy for their dying child. You either trust us to parent or not. Please oppose this bill.

Connie Haham, Ms

NCJW

Austin, TX

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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.

Katie Lawrence

Self

Hutto, TX

I am pro-choice about abortion and birth control and I urge you to do all in your power to protect every woman's right to choose abortion, and birth control, and safe sex regardless of her age, income, or the state in which she lives.

I trust women to make these decisions and I trust women to decide when to involve others in her choices.

Furthermore deeming women who have made an extremely difficult decision when choosing to have an abortion is absolutely disgusting and shocking that it is even being discussed. As a native Texan, I urge you to not allow religious beliefs to influence your decision and allow church and state to be separate. Please consider this plea when voting.

Lisa Tolhurst

self/RN

Dickinson, TX

Oppose

Kendall Bentsen

self, Organizer

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB 3218. 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 access to quality healthcare, 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, respect their decisions and stop trying to coerce them into doing what you want.

Deborah Roberson

Self-- mental healthcare practitioner

Pflugerville, TX

I am in opposition to this bill.

It is unclear the purpose or why it is needed at this time, other than to penalize the mother.

Do NOT sign this bill.

Jerry Rubli

Self, real Estate Agent

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Spring, TX

Please pass this bill and get it out of committee.

Jerry

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.

James Apple

Self

Kemah, TX

Are you crazy Schafaefer? Against.

Kathy Turner

self, retired

McGregor, TX

Although I personally favor the outright, immediate abolition of abortion, I support this bill and urge you to report it favorably out of committee. Palliative care would honor the rights of the child and the parents and a prohibition of discriminatory abortions would save the lives of young Texans. Thanks for holding a hearing on this bill.

Kelly Le

Self, Student

Houston, TX

My name is Kelly Le and I strongly oppose House Bill 3218.

This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. Women deserve to choose and be supported in their private medical decisions as it relates to their pregnancies. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Not all pregnant women will want an abortion as an option for their complicated pregnancy, but the ones that might want it should have the ability to choose it because abortion is part of healthcare and it's an essential medical service that some women need.

I urge you to put your trust in patients and physicians; please, reject HB 3218 and work to make Texas healthcare better for women and all.

Brittany Greece

Self

North Richland Hills, TX

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My name is Brittany Greece and I oppose House Bill 3218. Abortion access should be available with no restrictions. Abortion is healthcare.

Shari Davis, Ms

NCJW

Austin, TX

Oppose

Jill Robbins

Self

Holland, TX

Why are we regulating the murder of our children? This is wicked! The Texas delegates ask you to abolition abortion. Where is that bill?

fred campbell, Physician

UT Health San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TX

As a physician, I oppose this bill in that it violates current Federal law

Jill Robbins

Self

Holland, TX

Can this bill be amendment to abolish abortion instead of regulating the murder of the innocent? That is what your Texas delegates ask for.

Julie Campbell

Self

Austin, TX

Palliative care, criminal offense and prohibiting abortion is NOT the same as providing adoption services. Why not write a bill expanding adoption programs?

Julie Campbell

Self

Austin, TX

The point is these families had a CHOICE!

Julie Campbell

Self

Austin, TX

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No one is talking about OR providing late term abortions.

Julie Campbell

Self

Austin, TX

Roe is the Law

Elizabeth Graham, Director

Texas RTL

Bellaire, TX

Please pass! Thanks.

Julie Campbell

Women

Austin, TX

The only people who should have a say are one woman, her family and her physician. Vote No!

Nancy Mayers

self retired

Austin, TX

The right to choose to have a baby or abort it belongs only to the woman. Make decisions for yourself or your family. Not everyone else's. Your God may not be my God so you have no right to legislate what a woman should do about a fetus which is not a child until it is born!

Allison Smith

self, University Student

College Station, TX

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. Abortion is not discriminatory. The nonsense laws you all try to pass limiting reproductive healthcare and people's rights to their OWN BODIES is.

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.

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Katherine McGovern

SELF

Dallas, TX

HB 3218: Removes the exception to abortion after 20 weeks for non-viable pregnancies. Texas is a Democracy. HB 3218 is anti-Democracy because it would impose on a woman a decision not to terminate a pregnancy after 20 weeks for reasons which have not state governmental interest but is rather to impose a religious belief upon a medical procedure. Vote NO!

Eva Bonilla

Self

Fort Worth, TX

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

Laura Payet

Self - legal writer

Austin, TX

Stop it. Just stop it. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. The state has no business evaluating the reasons a pregnant person is seeking an abortion. It's intrusive and harmful.

Jessica Moreno

self, LCSW

Austin, TX

My name is Jessica Moreno and I write to oppose House Bill 3218. 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. This experience has given me great insight to patterns of abuse, power and control. The approach of HB3218 feels much like an abusive relationship.

Laws are put in place to protect the broader community, but I'm not seeing how this attempt for control is protecting me as a uterus having Texan. HB3218 unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. This sounds eerily similar to an abusive partner using power and control in their relationship.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. When will my representatives quit trying to control my body?

Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. When people are forced into parenthood, there can be devastating outcomes for the children in that home.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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

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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 directly impacted.

LeRoy Whitman

self / Bible Translator

Denton, TX

The thing that I think is missed in this (and other) pro-life bills

is that Texas keeping the law by prosecuting abortionists as first-degree murderers of children

— AS IF THE STATE HAD NO AUTHORITY OR ENFORCEMENT RESOURCES —

would make all these other bills unnecessary.

There are probably less than 2,000 full-time abortionists in the entire US. If all of them would be prosecuted and given capital punishment, it would be LESS THAN ONE DAY'S SLAUGHTER committed by these butchers.

The bill, or an amendment to this or another of the pertinent bills considered today with the language of, HB 3326 would be a step in the right direction (if enforced).

I want to add this to my testimony, as it thus applies to HB 3218:
Government is to FOCUS upon Ending Innocent Bloodshed
(written by LeRoy Whitman)

What's at the top of GOD's agenda?

Stopping the shedding of innocent blood.

The first thing He told Noah, the 8 adults out of the ark in a new world, was Genesis 9:5-7. To preserve family by stopping innocent bloodshed VIA GOVERNMENT.

He hung up His "war-bow" of universal judgment, and put "the sword" in the hands of Humankind, so we had to learn to do justice. This is all in His mercy.

The reason government exists - God's stated, fundamental purpose for putting "the sword" (limited community government) into the hands of Humankind - is to punish those whose hands shed innocent blood, in order to not just avenge a wrong, but to restrain evil by a supernatural function of God-ordained civil government.

We must abolish abortion, and charge abortionists with a capital crime, or the Lord will replace our government. When? Why? When a government (never perfect) ceases to perform the functions for which God ordained it - to punish definite Biblically-defined crimes, to further restrain evil by being a societal voice of a righteous standard, then it needs reformed. But when a government rebels against and steadfastly uses its power to OPPOSE the direct, stated purpose for which God gave it (by using its power to PROTECT those who shed innocent blood) - then the clock is ticking for its cup to be removed (cf. Psalm 2).

And do not think that because a generation or two have passed in unrighteousness that it changes God's mind about His standard. "Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and tolerance and patience, not knowing that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?" ??(Romans? ?2:4?)

The first priority and first command of the Lord is to end Innocent Bloodshed. There is no greater cause of mass killing today, in our country or in the world, than "legalized" (de-criminalized) murder. It is murder protected by militarized law enforcement at every level of government - as long as you are the mother of the child! Do we not see how insidious this satanic strategy is?, to destroy family, bind motherhood, defile the land, and (as with Balaam's counsel) bring judgment to God's People?

Genesis 9:5-7.

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Sarah Payet
Self, Student
Austin, TX

With the power vested in me, I put a curse on your house: may you always be as idiotic and incompetent as you are reprehensible.

Nye Peterson
Self - stay at home mom
Round Rock, TX

My daughter Zoe Peterson was born with a prenatal diagnosis of Trisomy 18. Around 11 weeks of gestation I was told the prenatal blood test came back positive for T18 and that diagnosis was deemed “incompatible with life”. I was urged to terminate my pregnancy solely based on the diagnosis and given no hope for a live birth. After getting the CVS and amnio to confirm the T18 diagnosis, I was again urged to set up an appointment for termination. I asked about survival stories or to speak to others who had gone through this and was told there were “no survivors”. I was also falsely misled to believe that carrying my child to term would only be delaying the inevitable and her life would only be a life of suffering, that is, IF she somehow survived birth.

Despite all the negativity and pressure I felt to terminate by 26 weeks, I chose to carry my daughter to term and let God decide when her life would end. At each prenatal appointment and ultrasound, we held our breath thinking her heart would no longer be beating. I could feel the sense of pity from the doctors thinking this would be our last appointment and Zoe would pass. But she didn't! Her heart kept strongly beating each time. Despite having issues such as clenched fists and a heart defect, she was determined to tell us not to give up on her. No matter what the outdated statistics said, she was still here and still fighting.

At 39 weeks, Zoe made her grand entrance into the world! She let out a cry and breathed on her own! She spent 8 days in the NICU and we were sent home on hospice. She was expected to pass by the end of the month because of her heart and respiratory issues. Once again, many in the medical community doubted her strength and resilience.

Even if our story ended here, i would not have regretted my decision to carry her to term. She defied the odds, made it to birth and came home to spend time with her entire family. That was something we were told would not happen and that choosing to terminate would be the most merciful thing to do. Obviously, those doctors could not predict the future and had been referencing outdated medical publications because there are hundreds of kids just like Zoe who do make it to birth and beyond.

On January 28th of this year, Zoe celebrated her 6th birthday and is still breaking all the rules! She is also a leader in an advocacy group with other Trisomy 18 Rule Breakers from all around Texas. Zoe enjoys her days playing with her brother, getting spoiled by her grandmothers, and learning new things each day in her various therapies. This Fall, she will even be starting Kindergarten in our local public school district. Zoe and all her fellow “incompatible with life” Trisomy warriors are continuing to show the world what can happen when you give each child the chance to live their best life!

Ricardo Martinez
Self
Austin, TX

I am in opposition of HB 3218. This bill unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reason for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will.

This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive.

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BRIAN SANDLER
BLM, NAACP, SPLC
Arlington, TX

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 3218 because women must have the right to choose what happens to their own bodies. Please reject this legislation!

Alheli Harvey
self/ doctoral student
Austin, TX

Again- another bill that is pretending to be something other than what it is: a baseless, unconstitutional infringement seeking to expand punitive measures that criminalize women and providers. This bill represents nothing but ongoing violence and discrimination toward women by regulating their bodies in the disguise of a moral argument. 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

This is bullshit. Oppose it.

brian rogers
Law Office of Brian J. Rogers
Friendswood, TX

This is bullshit. Bullshit. No. Oppose it.

Glenda Weatherly
Self retired
Wheeler, TX

I humbly ask this Committee to reject the continued regulation of abortion and immediately hear HB 3326 which would abolish abortion in Texas. God will not bless a state that allows the killing of its most vulnerable. I would love to see my Texas be the first to take a stand to get rid of Roe Vs Wade completely. Sincerely, a Concerned Citizen of Texas, Glenda Weatherly

Sheereen Ibtesam

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Progress Texas

Fort Worth, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

Stop your unconstitutional bill nonsense.

Roe v Wade is settled law.

You cannot make woman's right to choose what she wants with her body a crime.

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

Christina Gunter

Self

Coppell, TX

As a Texas citizen I reject this extreme legislation. This legislation along with the other five are all oppressing women and their rights to their reproductive system. Creating a criminal offense for women who have an abortion is outrageous. Making abortions illegal and a criminal offense will not stop abortions from occurring. All it will do is result in more women deaths, be it by attempted self abortions or suicide. As a woman this is absolutely terrifying to me. I am married and on birth control as we do not want to children and birth control is not 100% effective. If these legislations were to pass I would not feel safe living in the state of Texas.

Abigail OConnor

self

Austin, TX

I oppose this regulation

Amanda Ortiz

Planned Parenthood

Austin, TX

I OPPOSE criminalizing 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

Kat Beam

Self

Wimberley, TX

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My name is Kat and I oppose House Bill 3218. As a fertile woman who could have children when she so chooses this bill impacts me directly. I want a choice as to when and how I will start my family. If I were to become pregnant this year, carry my fetus until the third trimester only find out of a life-threatening disability, I would want to have an abortion without being forced to read "materials". Materials that do not even have the option to visit an "abortion" site. Tailoring this bill to guilt someone into carrying a life-threatening disability full term into birth and then into an agonized life. This is disgraceful. A bill such as this will force many to take actions that will undoubtedly kill or render themselves infertile. A bill such as this, will turn an already heartbreaking situation into one of complete horror. To threaten a doctor and/or family with criminal offenses listed in these bills is depraved. 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. 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.

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

I would like to register my support for HB 3218.

Kaleb Todd

Sunrise Movement ATX

Austin, TX

My name is Kaleb Todd and I oppose HB 3760. Abortion care is healthcare, and clearly it is unethical to bring criminal charges against people for seeking healthcare. Pregnant people own their bodies, and therefore whatever health and ethical choices they make about their bodies are theirs and theirs alone. I urge you to oppose this bill which tramples on our rights and freedom.

margaret burke

self, venue manager

austin, TX

I strongly oppose this bill.

Ana Rodriguez

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Ana Rodriguez, writing testimony against HB 3218.

HB 3218 would ban abortion based on the state's assumptions of a person's private decision making and it would force people to carry unviable pregnancies until they miscarry. Additionally, the creation of a civil cause of action that would allow anyone in the state of Texas to sue an abortion provider, whether or not they were connected to the patient or provider, would promote frivolous and harassing lawsuits against doctors.

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The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking abortion are worthy or justified. People seek to end their pregnancies for any number of reasons and the state is not entitled to know or judge those reasons. People make the decision about whether to end a pregnancy or carry it to term in consultation with their family, their faith, and their doctor. Bans based on the reason a person decides to terminate a pregnancy have one goal--to eliminate access to abortion.

Abortion bans based on race, ethnicity, sex or disability will not end the systematic discrimination in this country and they are not intended to. These types of bans are introduced by anti-abortion extremists to give the illusion that they care about marginalized communities such as the disabled community. However, bills like these have little to do with protecting the disabled community, and in fact further harm the disabled community by using people as a rhetorical device. The same anti-abortion politicians pushing these bills are the same ones who have voted against expanding Medicaid or increasing funding for employment opportunities for those with disabilities.

Policies that actually end systematic oppression based on race, ethnicity, sex, or disability would restore everyone's right to bodily autonomy, would expand access to the care people need to decide if, whether, and when to become a parent, including abortion care, and would ensure that all people, have the support and healthy communities they need to build the families they choose.

I urge the committee to vote against HB 3218.

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 being's choices regarding their own reproduction. Just like it would not be right to dictate a man get a vasectomy.

Jennifer Perez
Self-mom
Tomball, TX

My daughter Hannah Grace was born on April 10, 2017. She had anencephaly, and she was diagnosed in-utero at 11 weeks. She lived for 31 hours and 22 minutes! She cooed, nursed, and responded to sound. She was truly a miracle! My husband and I received excellent perinatal palliative care starting in my second trimester. We are very grateful for the care we received from our palliative care team. I only found out about perinatal palliative care once I switched hospitals based on a friend's recommendation. I was not given information on perinatal palliative care when Hannah was diagnosed. Moms should be given that kind of information upon the diagnosis of their baby with a fatal abnormality so that they know that if they choose life for their baby they will have the support of a medical team that will help them through their pregnancy, delivery, and after-delivery. This type of information is a part of informed consent and is a means for a doctor to provide the best care possible for his/her patient.

Also, prohibiting discriminatory abortions should also be a priority. Babies in the womb do not have their own voice so we should protect them every chance we get. As a society we should not accept oppression of another person in any way—whether out of the womb or in it.

Jasmine Tolhurst
Texas Democratic Women of Galveston County and self as a student at 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

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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 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.

Briana Miles

Self, Community Organizer

Sugar Land, TX

Hi my name is Briana Miles and I oppose HB 3218

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justified. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy or raise a child are best made by pregnant people, their families, and their health care provider. Politicians should never force anyone to make particular decisions about reproduction or to become a parent against one's own will. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. Please give respect to the people having to make these personal medical decisions and their doctors. Trust doctors, trust science, and oppose HB 3218.

Regina Beavers

Self

Eules, TX

Oppose

Amanda Moorhead

Self, OT

Lubbock, TX

I am strongly opposed to this house bill. This bill is particularly cruel in that it is designed to shame and coerce a person who is facing a diagnosis of a lethal fetal anomaly. Contrary to what proponents may say, this bill does not protect anyone. This is about coercing women into carrying their pregnancies to term, even in cases where the fetus cannot survive. This is unnecessarily cruel to the woman carrying the fetus and her family.

Lori Stockstiel

NCJW SAN ANTONIO

Boerne, TX

I OPPOSE THIS BILL. It is an infringement of my religious beliefs.

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 1515, 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

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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.

Ruth York

Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County; Texas Family Defense Committee

Cisco, TX

I am Ruth York, speaking for myself, Tea Party Patriots of Eastland County, and Texas Family Defense Committee, in support of HB 3218.

This is a great bill. Doctors are often wrong in prenatal diagnoses, or health issues may be fixable. When there is an issue, families often find that child becomes truly loved and occupies a special place to the family and friends. These individuals are almost 100% thankful for their life, and their families are almost equally likely to likewise be grateful the child was not aborted.

In the most extreme situation and death ensues, at least the parents do not have to live with the knowledge they aborted their child.

Karl Holbert

Self

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 3218.

Monica Holbert

Self, graphic designer

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 3218

Darlene Holbert

Self, retired

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 3218.

Karen Kelley

self, Administrative

austin, TX

I oppose HB3218. Onerous regulation by government does not belong in healthcare choices. It is clear this bill is a bad solution in search of a non-existent problem.

Burt Holbert

Self, student

Round Rock, TX

I am against HB 3218.

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Caitlin Flynt

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Caitlin Flynt and I am writing in opposition of House Bill 3218. HB 3218 unconstitutionally bans abortion based on a person's private decision-making and alleged reasons for having an abortion, and forces people to carry nonviable pregnancies against their will until they miscarry. This is so unbelievably cruel that I struggle to find polite words to express my opposition.

The state has absolutely no right to be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking pre-viability abortion are worthy or justifiable. Decisions about whether and when to continue or end a pregnancy are personal, private decisions that are to be made solely by pregnant people, their families, and their health care providers. Inserting the state into this decision making process is frankly disgusting and politicians should never force anyone to become a parent or make reproductive choices against their will.

HB 3218 serves not to protect Texans or their health, but to shame, coerce, and punish pregnant people. This bill protects no one, and will cruelly force people to carry nonviable pregnancies to term, which is a horrible, traumatizing thing to do to a person.

As a Texan who has had an abortion, I care deeply about my fellow Texan's access to this essential healthcare. My abortion saved my life and gave me the happy, prosperous life that I have today. Without it, I would still be trapped in a cycle of poverty and struggle. It's incredibly important to me that my government support and affirm Texans' right to access safe and legal abortion on their own terms.

House Bill 3218 is an outrageously cruel and hurtful bill that will cause Texans to suffer deeply if it is passed. I am urging you to oppose this legislation and vote NO on HB 3218.

Ethan Wayland

self

McKinney, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

David Elam

The pre-born

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.

Callie Cleveland

Self employed/the unborn

El Paso, TX

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"These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood..."
Proverbs 6:16-17

"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee..."
Jeremiah 1:5

The LORD HATES the shedding of innocent blood and you can not get anymore innocent than a baby in the womb! We are without excuse! There is no debate of when the child's life begins, because The LORD says before he even formed us in the womb he KNEW us, and before we came out of the womb he sanctified us. Clearly, life not only begins at conception, but is already planned and known by Almighty God before hand!

My mom had 5 miscarriages. 3 siblings of which I was old enough to witness. 17 weeks, 13 weeks, and 10 weeks. The 10 week old, Glory, was half the size of my thumb and still had legs, arms, head, eyes, mouth, etc. The other two had their, legs, feet, toes, arms, hands, fingers, genitals, torsos, heads, noses, eyes, ears, mouths... I am a witness to the amazing and obvious fact that a human being is being formed in the image of God in the womb.

"For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them."
Psalm 139:13-16

Repent, Texas! Stop the murder of innocent children!

Written in support of HB 3326 and HB 3218

AJ Price, Mx.

self; sole proprietor of local business

League City, TX

I oppose this bill and any government overreach into private medical decisions. I support bodily autonomy regardless of pregnancy status or stage and oppose criminalizing health care.

Brianna Donnelly

Self

Frisco, TX

Abortion is safe.

Abortion is necessary.

Abortion is a right.

Abortion is health care.

Megan Baker

Self, childcare

Austin, TX

No exceptions in cases where a fetus cannot survive? Incredibly cruel!!

Maggi Carter, Ms.

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Self/retired

Beaumont, TX

The state of Texas needs to stay out of the personal medical health decisions of Texans.

Jennifer Madrid, Ms.

self

Belton, TX

Dear Public Affairs Committee,

Please consider that, although not intended, we are actually discriminating against healthy children in the womb or any child in the womb whose mother wants to abort him or her for any random reason not including the reasons of gender, disability, etc. listed in this bill. I realize that is not the intent, but it is the unfortunate effect of this bill. Please amend it to protect ALL pre-born children. This bill can protect no babies, as a mother can easily give other reasons for taking the life of her child. Please give all pre-born children equal protection under our laws and in accordance with the Constitution. Please affirm our constitution's 10th amendment and stand bold and firm on our right as a state to make and pass our own laws that protect our own citizens.

Mary OConnell

Self

Austin, TX

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

Melinda Westphal

Self

Friendswood, TX

I oppose this.

Bleuenn Simon

Self

Houston, TX

Criminalizing abortion will only make women's lives more miserable. In three years as an abortion clinic escort, I have witnessed the pain and sadness of women, or couples, who come for pregnancy termination. A law isn't going to stop them from seeking abortion: they will only do without proper medical and psychological care.

Shantia Reese

Self

Austin, TX

Abortion

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

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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

William Ripley

Self/fireman

Sherman, TX

My name is William Ripley from Sherman

I'm against this bill as written; House Bill 3218 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.

Tara Sander Lee. A molecular geneticist gives a scientific response to this argument.

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

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fight?

If these bills had teeth, there would be a line of Pro-choice protesters here. They are absent.

The 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)

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.

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 chosen not to listen and legislate by empirical and tangible evidence.

Texas should not be violating human rights.

Mary Ambrose

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.

Donna Lipman

self

Austin, TX

Stop trying to regulate women's lives! Stop it. I oppose, vehemently.

Corlie Jackson

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LWV

Galveston, TX

OPPOSE!! How dare you even think that regulating my choice over my body and my birth options is acceptable. This is America, Sharia Law is not acceptable.

brandie baker

self

austin, TX

I would like to state my opposition of HB 3218.

Brian Gutierrez

self

Austin, TX

I disagree with this bill creating a criminal offense or disciplinary action.

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 3218 and any similar bill.

Neesha Davé, Ms.

Lilith Fund

Austin, TX

We oppose HB 3218.

HB 3218 is a racist bill that would ban abortion based on the state making assumptions of a person's private decision-making and it would force people to carry unviable pregnancies until they miscarry. Additionally, the creation of a civil cause of action that would allow anyone in the state of Texas to sue an abortion provider, whether or not they were connected to the patient or provider, would promote frivolous and harassing lawsuits against medical providers.

The state cannot be the arbiter of whether a person's reasons for seeking abortion are worthy or justified. People seek to end their pregnancies for any number of reasons and the state is not entitled to know or judge those reasons. People make the decision about whether to end a pregnancy or carry it to term in consultation with their family, their faith, and their doctor. Bans based on the reason a person decides to terminate a pregnancy have one goal--to eliminate access to abortion.

Abortion bans based on race, ethnicity, sex or disability will not end systematic discrimination in this country and they are not intended to. These types of bans are introduced by anti-abortion extremists to give the illusion that they care about marginalized communities such as the disabled community. However, bills like these have little to do with protecting the disabled community,

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and in fact further harm the disabled community by using people with disabilities as a rhetorical device. The same anti-abortion politicians pushing these bills are the same ones who have voted against expanding Medicaid or increasing funding for employment opportunities for those with disabilities.

Policies that actually end systematic oppression based on race, ethnicity, sex, or disability would restore everyone's right to bodily autonomy; would expand access to the care people need to decide if, whether, and when to become a parent, including abortion care; and would ensure that all people have the support and healthy communities they need to build the families they choose.

We urge the committee to oppose HB 3218.

Leah Krumholz

Self, Social media writer

Austin, TX

This bill is NOT about protecting life; it's about controlling women. It is a woman's right as a human being to decide what to do with her body. 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 woman 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.

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 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.

Cheryl Cali

Self / homemaker

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Victoria, TX

The preborn nondiscrimination act, in seeking to protect some, shows partiality by only protecting the preborn based off of distinctions made by their sex, race, and disability. Whereas we are currently free and able to kill preborn children in the womb in the state of Texas indiscriminately at this time, we will now begin to discriminate with this law and only save some.

As for God, Yet He is not partial to princes, Nor does He regard the rich more than the poor; For they are all the work of His hands. For God does not show favoritism. He chose the lowly and despised things of the world, and the things that are not, to nullify the things that are, For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God, showing no partiality and accepting no bribe. If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing right. But if you show favoritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers.

But as for the highly esteemed--whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism--those leaders added nothing to me. Whoever does wrong will be repaid for his wrong, and there is no favoritism. Since you call on a Father who judges each one's work impartially, conduct yourselves in reverent fear during your stay as foreigners. You must not pervert justice; you must not show partiality to the poor or favoritism to the rich; you are to judge your neighbor fairly. And now, may the fear of the LORD be upon you. Be careful what you do, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.

It is your duty to protect all life without partiality. We are not called to only defend the lives of people based off of sex, race, or disability. To do anything other than protect all preborn babies is hypocrisy.

Mark Lee Dickson, Director

Right To Life of East Texas

Longview, TX

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 for Representative Matt Schaefer for filing HB 3218 and stand in full support of this bill.

Kailea Humphreys

Self

Dallas, TX

I support this bill and ask all members to do the same.

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.

Peggy Williams

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Self

Cedar Park, TX

This bill is so important for saving the lives of the unborn. We must be the voices for the unborn who can't speak for themselves. Pass this bill please! I only wish I still had my own aborted child.

Pat Williams

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am for this bill because it truly trumps Margaret Sanger's original intent to limit minority births. This has the support of scientific proof that life begins at conception.

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 submit my opposition to House Bill 3218 because it's cruel and poses life-threatening risks to all Texans who become pregnant by forcing them to carry nonviable pregnancies to term. Laws that prohibit abortions for "alleged reasons" rob a person's ability to make the best decisions for them, their bodies, and their futures.

In this bill's language, it wouldn't allow for a pregnant person to have an abortion for any reason past 20-weeks' gestation. Many fetal anomalies aren't detected until 18-21 weeks of pregnancy which is why an anatomical scan is recommended during this time frame. If a fetal anomaly was detected in this scan, this bill would take away a person's private decision to terminate their pregnancy. Texans deserve better than to have lawmakers decide next steps for them during a deeply personal medical decision.

Providers should not be forced to second-guess a person's reasons for seeking an abortion. Bans like this discourage honest, confidential conversations and interfere in the provider-patient relationship. Bans like these are cruel and place the motives of women under suspicion during a time when they should be trusted. It's for these reasons, we oppose House Bill 3218.