

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Health
For HB 44

Compiled on: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:05 PM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

Hearing Date: April 7, 2025 8:00 AM

Marissa Corfias

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

No one should be criminalized for seeking medical care (abortion) or helping someone who requires an abortion. The decision should be made between the patient and their health care provider and not by our government. The maternal mortality rate in Texas has exponentially increased and this bill will contribute significantly to more deaths. Our elected officials should be protecting its citizens not harming them.

Rachel Gano

self/medical student

Fort Worth, TX

I am submitting a public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB31/HB44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies, but as written it has other harmful consequences.

The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from persecution.

As a medical student who hopes to pursue a career in OB/GYN, this bill doesn't add clarifying language, but makes it more confusing as to when and how a medical provider can give care in emergencies.

Kaylan Berry

Self

Manchaca, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Enedelia Saucedo

self

Denton, TX

I urge the Public Health committee to OPPOSE SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed/amended. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences.

The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

As someone who is spent years and thousands of dollars to try to get pregnant, I now fear being pregnant in Texas. Abortion is health care and there shouldn't be criminality attached to those people or organizations that are supporting health care. Please amend or kill this bill before we are set back any further.

Dawn Letbetter, Mrs

self

Fort Worth, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Semaki Corfias

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill relating to exceptions to otherwise prohibited abortions based on a physician's reasonable medical judgment. While I understand that this bill may aim to address specific situations, I am deeply concerned that it may impose undue limitations on a physician's ability to make the best medical decisions for their patients.

Medical professionals are trained to assess complex and often life-threatening situations. The inclusion of restrictions based on "reasonable medical judgment" could create unnecessary barriers to critical care, particularly in situations where time is of the essence or where patient health could be compromised by waiting for bureaucratic approval. I believe that these decisions should be left in the hands of medical experts, not legislators.

Furthermore, limiting access to safe and timely reproductive healthcare can have severe long-term effects on individuals' health and well-being. Access to comprehensive medical care is essential for the protection of individuals' rights and health, and I urge you to consider the broader impact of this bill on your constituents.

I ask that you oppose this bill and stand up for the rights of individuals to make informed decisions about their own healthcare in consultation with their trusted physicians.

Christopher Sader
Self, Human Factors Engineer
Round Rock, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Anna Galluzzi
Self
Denton, TX

I oppose this bill. Please keep Texas women safe by allowing abortions deemed necessary by physicians.

Amanda Bouadi
Self
McAllen, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill relating to exceptions to otherwise prohibited abortions based on a physician's reasonable medical judgment. While I understand that this bill may aim to address specific situations, I am deeply concerned that it may impose undue limitations on a physician's ability to make the best medical decisions for their patients.

Medical professionals are trained to assess complex and often life-threatening situations. The inclusion of restrictions based on "reasonable medical judgment" could create unnecessary barriers to critical care, particularly in situations where time is of the essence or where patient health could be compromised by waiting for bureaucratic approval. I believe that these decisions should be left in the hands of medical experts, not legislators.

Furthermore, limiting access to safe and timely reproductive healthcare can have severe long-term effects on individuals' health and well-being. Access to comprehensive medical care is essential for the protection of individuals' rights and health, and I urge you to consider the broader impact of this bill on your constituents.

I ask that you oppose this bill and stand up for the rights of individuals to make informed decisions about their own healthcare in consultation with their trusted physicians.

Kathleen Applewhite, Mrs.
self/homemaker
Austin, TX

PLEASE You must OPPOSE Bill HB44 UNTIL It Is FIXED. Now, as the Bill stands Women and Babies in all stages of pregnancy & life are at Great Risk. This Needs to Be a decision between a Doctor and His Patient. This is not a Governmental Issue. Please Stand Up for the People, please please stop what is happening, Please !!!

Sarah Clancy
Self - social worker
Austin, TX

The unwritten yet implicit laws of humanity dictate that we must save the current life of the woman over the potential life of the fetus.

Candice Whack

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. This is an insidious threat masquerading as aid for Texas women.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Cheshta Bajaj

self, digital organizer

Frisco, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Savannah Grantham

self - student

Ft Worth, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Kimberly Hulse

Self - account manager

Austin, TX

“Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.”

Carolina Salmeron

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Carolina Salmeron, and I'm writing in strong opposition to HB44 as currently written.

As a public health professional and Texas resident, I'm deeply concerned about the long-term implications this bill could have—not just for individual patients, but for our health systems, communities, and the public's trust in medical care.

While HB44 is being presented as a clarification to protect doctors providing life-saving abortion care, its inclusion of language tied to the 1925 abortion ban raises major red flags. That century-old law explicitly allows for the prosecution of anyone who helps someone "procure" an abortion—and does not include protections for pregnant people themselves.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute individuals for seeking abortion care. Including or amending the 1925 law within HB44 undermines that long-standing principle and opens the door to dangerous reinterpretations that could put families, medical professionals, nonprofit workers, and patients at risk of criminalization.

This is not a hypothetical threat. Texas leaders have already publicly threatened to use the 1925 abortion law to prosecute those who seek abortions and the people who help them. Including any language from that law in HB44 gives them the legal opening to do exactly that. We cannot afford to be naïve about the risks this bill poses.

The public health consequences are profound. This kind of legal ambiguity will lead to confusion, delays in emergency care, and widespread fear among providers and communities. It will also deepen existing health disparities, especially for Black, Brown, rural, and low-income Texans who already face disproportionate barriers to care.

If the intent of HB44 is truly to clarify and protect life-saving care, then there should be no reason to include language that revives or legitimizes outdated and harmful statutes. I urge this committee to amend the bill and remove all references to the 1925 abortion ban to ensure it does what it claims to do—protect life without criminalizing care.

Texans deserve clarity, compassion, and evidence-based policy—not legislation that could be used as a tool for punishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Angela Greco

Self, gardener, writer

Austin, TX

Hi! I'm commenting on HB 44 to say that I don't want a clarification of when or where abortion is acceptable. Abortion is healthcare, and I want the abortion ban to be lifted entirely. Please work to enshrine women's health in Texas law!! Thank you.

Angelika Garza

Self

Mission, TX

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill relating to exceptions to otherwise prohibited abortions based on a physician's reasonable medical judgment. While I understand that this bill may aim to address specific situations, I am deeply concerned that it may impose undue limitations on a physician's ability to make the best medical decisions for their patients.

Medical professionals are trained to assess complex and often life-threatening situations. The inclusion of restrictions based on "reasonable medical judgment" could create unnecessary barriers to critical care, particularly in situations where time is of the essence or where patient health could be compromised by waiting for bureaucratic approval. I believe that these decisions should be left in the hands of medical experts, not legislators.

Furthermore, limiting access to safe and timely reproductive healthcare can have severe long-term effects on individuals' health and well-being. Access to comprehensive medical care is essential for the protection of individuals' rights and health, and I urge you to consider the broader impact of this bill on your constituents.

I ask that you oppose this bill and stand up for the rights of individuals to make informed decisions about their own healthcare in consultation with their trusted physicians.

Kelly Powers

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Anna Caffry

Self , accountant

Grand Prairie, TX

I oppose this bill as written. This could criminalize women who are seeking abortions including in cases of danger to the mother, fetus incompatibility with life, and rape/incest. Many abortion seekers are mothers so this could leave children motherless either by death due to medical issues or prison due to prosecution. Please fix your this bill so it does not revive the 1925 law.

Dorene Cohen

Self. Retired

Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment. The current language goes back to a 1925 law and could be used to criminalize pregnant women and those who help them.

Elizabeth Boyd

SB

Houston, TX

The language of this is a dangerous slippery slope and is unacceptable. This does not place any value on the health of women. Do not pass this bill.

Katie Devinney

self - web developer

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB44/SB31 as written. The language included that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes pregnant women, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target pregnant women. Please fix this bill before you vote on it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Christine Middleton

Self/Retired

Corpus Christi, TX

No one should be criminalized for seeking an abortion.

Nancy Vasquez

Self, program specialist

Pflugerville, TX

Allowing pregnancy termination for those women for whom being or staying pregnant is the just course of action. To not allow abortions in these circumstances directly endangers the lives of women. Women like your friends, sisters, mothers. Women voters.

Carolyn Olsen-Landis

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sarah Sweet

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. Abortions help mothers and children. Texas women will die in hospitals if not granted life saving abortions. Amend this bill to save Texas women and mothers !

Autumn Chim

Self

Austin, TX

As an Austin, TX resident and practicing Physician Assistant, I urge you to reject HB 44. This bill threatens Texans' health, autonomy, and economic security.

HB 44's purported exceptions are recognized by health care providers and reproductive rights experts as "exception deception". Evidence confirms physicians under similar bans hesitate to act decisively due to vague laws, even risking patient health or life (KFF). This results in dangerous delays and worsens patient outcomes.

My clinical experience as a PA underscores a fundamental medical truth: time is critical. Delays lead to poorer outcomes, complications, suffering, and longer, more costly hospitalizations. This applies directly to abortion care. HB 44 forces delays in essential, time-sensitive decisions through barriers and legal ambiguity.

These delays harm patients and increase financial burdens on patients, hospitals, insurers, and state resources like Medicaid. Interfering with necessary, timely medical care contradicts effective clinical practice and sound fiscal responsibility. Data links restrictive laws to worse public health outcomes, including maternal morbidity (e.g., sepsis - ProPublica) and mortality. States with severe restrictions show poorer maternal/child health, disproportionately harming marginalized communities.

HB 44 erodes essential care, lacks functional exceptions, and harms Texans via dangerous delays, worse outcomes, and system-wide financial strain. I implore you to reject HB 44 and instead prioritize the actual health and well-being of your constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Autumn Chim, PA-C

Austin, TX

Jennifer Floyd

Self

Houston, TX

This bill as written appears to criminalize a pregnant individual by reviving an older Texas law from the 1920s. Please do not pass this as written without significant clarification. Women's lives are precious and no woman should be considered a criminal for having a medical procedure. Healthcare should never be a crime.

Lindsay Nguyen

Self

Plano, TX

I currently oppose sb31/hb44. To criminalize a pregnant person is cruel and inhumane. Texans need real solutions and yes we should take care of the baby but we also are forgetting to take care of women which is sad on so many levels. Please continue to think of women and their safe and healthy as well.

Christine Ussher

Self

Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Katie Moore
Self
Greenville, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant women and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sara Ainsworth
Self
Dallas, TX

I strongly oppose this bill. While it purports to expand exceptions to allow for abortions in the event of medical emergencies, it does not actually do so. Instead, it uses limiting language and proscribed treatment other than as listed (despite not addressing all situations in which an abortion is the correct treatment). Women are dying in Texas because of the existing anti-abortion law. This is not conjecture, this is fact. In a state that already has some of the worst maternal mortality in the country we need good faith efforts to save mother's lives. This is not that. It is disingenuous and will do nothing to stop the horrible conditions in which pregnant Texans and their providers find themselves due to draconian laws.

Abigail Hawthorne
self, freelance musician
Garland, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Lindsey pooley
Self
Houston, TX

Further criminalizing abortion in the name of "exceptions" is ridiculous. Women are dying because of the ban in the first place, having actual exceptions and trusting doctors to do their jobs to save women when they know evacuating a pregnancy is necessary is what we should be doing. Do not further criminalize doctors and women who are in emergency situations from losing pregnancy or non viable pregnancy.

Anthony Castilleja
Self
San Marcos, TX

All this bill would do is put pregnant women and innocent citizens at risk of being imprisoned or penalized for trying to obtain medical care in or out of Texas. Please don't further send this state into the dark ages. Enough with the identity politics and religious fervor, please.

Madison McLarry, Miss

Self

San Marcos, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Melina Espiritu-Azocar

Self

SAN ANTONIO, TX

Pregnant people deserve access to abortion care without the threat of criminalization. As a mother of two teenagers who are growing into adulthood, I'm deeply afraid for their future in Texas. I want them to experience the joys of life—including, if they choose, motherhood—without living in fear for their health, safety, or dignity.

Right now, Texas law puts lives at risk. HB 44, without amendment, does not protect pregnant people in urgent and life-threatening situations. Women deserve to feel safe in their own state. They deserve the right to grow their families without fear that they'll be left to die because they can't access abortion care—even when their life is on the line, or when continuing a pregnancy could cause serious and irreversible harm.

My children—and all of our children—deserve lawmakers who will stand up for their right to live with dignity, to make personal medical decisions without fear, and to be treated with compassion.

Please amend HB 44. Protect our families. Give women the dignity and care they deserve.

Krista Kelly

Self

Austin, TX

possible.

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers

Owen OBrien

Myself

AUSTIN, TX

Please please pass this bill. As someone who has never has a voluntary abortion but has suffered three unwanted miscarriages, all of which required medical attention, this is necessary to prevent women from going septic!

Monica Fraga, BA
Texas Equal Access
Denton, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Guadalupe Pardo
Self
La Feria, TX

Dear committee, I am writing to you to urge you to vote no on HB 44. This bill may claim to protect pregnant people during medical emergencies, but it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas abortion law pre-1925, an era of criminalization for pregnant people — and can affect those who help pregnant people seek access to care.

For decades we have heard from our representatives that there will be no prosecution for abortion seekers, but this bill will revoke that. If passed without changes, this bill will be used to prosecute and punish people who seek out of state abortion care, and those who help with lodging, child care or emotional support.

I ask you to revise HB 44 before it moves forward to amend this grave endangerment. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new ways to target abortion seekers, practical support or abortion funds or helpers. Texans deserve solutions not punishment.

Micaela Segal, Mrs.
Self - Teacher
Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

emily weems, Mrs

Self

Houston, TX

Women are dying in texas because of abortion care laws. That's an established fact. If this bill is a genuine attempt at saving lives then its language must be more specific. Why are there not medical terms like ectopic, miscarriage, fatal fetal abnormalities in this bill? Keeping it vague functions to maintain the status quo and doctors fearing for their freedom and medical license. If the true intent of this bill is to save lives then put the language in there:

Also, The "Life of the Mother" bill as currently written (if the intent is to clarify Texas' abortion ban) wouldn't just amend the current law. SB 31 would also add so-called 'clarifying' language to the 1925 ban (that courts have ruled has been repealed because newer laws have replaced it). The argument of being "thorough" is a false flag and it's obvious the inclusion of the amendment for the 100-year-old law is to negate the argument that the ban is no longer in effect (so can be used in future court cases). If this bill is about saving mothers lives than take out the part about 1925 ban please.

Patrick Moreno-Covington

Self - non profit employee

Houston, TX

I urge the committee to vote no on this bill as it includes provisions that would further criminalizes pregnant people and others providing and seeking necessary health care. This bill would reverse a long standing statute to not prosecute those seeking abortion. I urge you to remove any language that further create pathways to criminalize seeking abortion care.

Sean Taylor

self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Susan Long, Mrs

Self

Corpus Christi, TX

This bill as all other abortion ban violate a woman's rights to Dr patient confidentiality and to her right to control her own body. Government have no right to interferer in this

Kate Herling, Mrs.

Self

Austin, TX

Please amend the bill so that it does not criminalize pregnant Texan women. There are a lot of unintended consequences with this bill and this is a very scary step to losing further semblance of autonomy in the Texas medical system. There is a lot of gray when it comes to what constitutes life saving. Who are you to determine what that is? Which doctors? My doctor? Myself? These decisions should remain between a woman, her family, her God and her physician. Law makers should not have an opinion.

Taylor Cella

Self, software engineer

Little Elm, TX

I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. This law is extremist and will depend the healthcare crisis that Texas is already facing.

Mia Trevino

Self

El Paso, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Jennifer Ford

Self

The Colony, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment

Sara Hignite

Self

Dallas, TX

I have lived in Texas for nearly 17 years and I am writing to urge you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Please fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment. Thank you.

Vicki Wiechern

retired

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

ling zhu
Self
Austin, TX

Abortion is already difficult here in our state. Too many people who want to have children but have to choose abortion to save their own lives are hurt by current abortion bans. Doctors are afraid to make their medical decisions to save patients lives in dangerous pregnancy complications. Please Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jenelle Bisquera
Self
Richardson, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Diane Turner
Self
Adkins, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Melanie Campbell-Carter
self - retired
Arlington, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment. The legislature has no business telling physicians how to practice medicine and how to save lives. The legislature has no business making laws that unfairly deprive 50% of Texans of the right to decide, privately, in consultation with her doctor, what the best care is for her. These laws are driving professional health care workers out of our state, out of our medical schools and teaching hospitals, and depriving Texans of access to care.

Lindsay Burlison
Self
Houston, TX

Please Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Ethan Elkins
Self
Houston, TX

Texans should not be criminalized for accessing life saving healthcare that we have previously had access to historically. Criminalizing abortion access is a direct attack on marginalized communities and we have and will continue to see proof of this. This is a war on women that we had previously conquered.

Dave Smith
self, organizer
Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee:

I am a Texan and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. The law currently includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.”

Yadira Smith
Self
KATY, TX

It should be an American woman’s right to have autonomy over her body and her choices over her body.

Cindy Ruiz
Intersectional Feminist Student Organization
Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can’t let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of “clarity.”

Sara Laipis Eno
self
Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Debra Leff
Self, retired teacher
Austin, TX

I would like for you to put yourself in the shoes of a possible family member of yours whose pregnancy threatens her life. Why would we want to make a difficult situation even more difficult for her? The woman is probably already traumatized, why must you make these decisions even more difficult for her? This is not a religious issue, it is an issue between a woman and her doctor. Let's trust the professionals to help her make decisions. This is not a government decision.

Stacey Parsons
Self, nonprofit associate
Garland, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Quincey Quinn
self
Fort Worth, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Karen Mahaffy
Self
San Antonio, TX

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes practical support and abortion funds, people who support abortion seekers, AND the pregnant person themselves. The risk that patients could be prosecuted as a result of this bill would be devastating. I urge you to amend the bill to make clear that the pre-Roe law cannot be used to prosecute abortion seekers. Do not enact a law that will criminalize pregnant Texans and those providing practical support for their care and wellbeing.

Susan Studebaker

Self/ retired

Crockett, TX

As a retired Women's Healthcare Practitioner and Certified Nurse- Midwife with over 30 years experience in the field, I strongly oppose SB31/HB44 for several reasons. There is no way to list every possible way that you can describe "life-qualifying care". And this dies not even address potential effects of a woman's future reproductive ability or indeed, physical or mental conditions that can occur while waiting until you need "life qualifying care". The US ranks 55th in the world with regard to maternal mortality and Texas was ranked as 50th on women's health issues. In recent years, there have 3 well-publicized maternal deaths. Treatment decision need to be made by the patient and frequently in a fairly rapid manner. No more mothers should die in pregnancy, birth or postpartum!

Finally, criminalizing women, including those who had a spontaneous or incomplete abortion (more commonly called a miscarriage) and who may have desperately wanted a child is completely unconscionable. Thank you!

Lauren Leese

Self, Editor

Round Rock, TX

I am writing to register my opposition to the current iteration of HB 44. Texas has always held the stance that it would not prosecute people for having abortions, but this bill would revive a dangerous 1925 law that would criminalize those who seek abortions and anyone who helps them, even if they obtain the abortion in a state where it is legal.

This law was ruled "repealed by implication" in federal court, but HB 44 would add an amendment to it and bolster the idea that this 100-year-old law is still relevant today, which it absolutely should not be. I support clarifying the law around when doctors can perform an abortion to save the life of the mother, but not at the expense of reactivating outdated and harmful legislation.

Tricia Stuart

self

Austin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Mayda Ortega

Self, writer

Edinburg, TX

Amend HB44. You work for us. Listen to us.

Trinity Patterson

self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Lorraine Chammah

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to ask you to take out any language that revives the 1925 laws that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. As a retired nurse, we should be supporting all efforts to strengthen healthcare in Texas for all.

Hope Wilson

self, physics tutor

Buda, TX

Please do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves. As a Texas resident, I do not support the criminalization of abortion seekers, funds, or helpers.

Samantha Cruz, Education specialist

Myself and all women for better healthcare for half the population of the state

Socorro, TX

As a potential future mother, I am scared to become pregnant in the state of Texas because of the repercussions it might bring if my body through no fault of my own rejects the pregnancy and I suffer bodily harm or loss of life because medical professionals don't want to risk aiding me in what the state has labeled as a killing of a human being if a spontaneous abortion were to take place within my body. As an educator it's important that the law and those imposing it know fully well how the female body works the fact that there are things out of our control and that we should not be subjects to legal repercussions if our body is not able to carry a pregnancy to term. How dare you claim you are pro-life when you would author such a flawed law that would make it so that medical professionals fear loss of their medical practice licenses if they aid any woman in physical distress and on the verge of death due to unforeseen circumstances and bodily reactions. How dare you condemn women to death sentences who CANNOT foresee or know the outcome of a pregnancy. I urge you to include exceptions, not doing so continues to put half of the Texas population in danger

Caroline Boyd

self, teacher

Dallas, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Virginia Smith
Self Medical Billing Operations Manager
Converse, TX

Dea Public Health Committee, I am a Female resident of Texas. I urge you not to support SB31/HB44 as it is currently written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. ABORTION IS A HUMAN RIGHT. Please protect your constituents by rewriting SB31/HB44.

Megan Blackard, Dr.
Self—child development specialist
Round Rock, TX

I am writing as a Texas woman to express my explicit and extreme support for HB44. Women have DIED or almost died because of the vague language used in the previous law regarding abortion. While I firmly believe in all women's right to choose, HB44 will at least allow physicians to use their best judgment without fear of retribution from politicians who have no medical qualifications.

Elizabeth Tate
Precision Demolition
McKinney, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.”

No law can fully account for the complexities of pregnancy or ensure that patients receive necessary care. Other states have shown that exceptions are politically motivated and largely unworkable, leaving most people without access. This bill only exists to provide politicians cover for their decision to ban abortion while still keeping care inaccessible. As written, SB31/HB44:

- ? Will not stop hospitals from prioritizing legal risks over patient health.
- ? Will not fully shield doctors from prosecution.
- ? Does nothing to ensure Texans can get the care they need.

Meghan Lowrey
Self/Doctoral Candidate, Medical Anthropology
Sherman, TX

While there is a pressing need to clarify what conditions and situations constitute a life-threatening experience justifying medical intervention in the form of abortion services, the proposed bill needs amendment. Texas has already seen a decrease in medical residency applications, and 1 in 5 OBGYNs in Texas have stated a desire to leave the state due to current abortion legislation. As HB44 is currently written, it poses a threat to further criminalization related to abortion services, which will result in the continued trend of medical practitioner avoidance of Texas. The state cannot embrace additional brain drain that threatens the health of state residents and negatively impacts our academic and economic positions. The bill is an admiral step in the clarification of what constitutes life-saving care, but further revisions would protect our healthcare system.

Allison Pollard
self, consultant
Carrollton, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Ana Rodriguez
Self & Lilith Fund & Texas Equal Access Fund
Houston, TX

As a pregnant Texan and abortion fund worker, I urge the House Public Health Committee to oppose HB 44 until it is fixed to remove language that could harm all pregnant Texans.

I have been pregnant twice under the total abortion ban. Each time my anxiety about the total abortion ban led to nightmares about dying at the ER because my providers couldn't intervene to save my life. I am glad that Texas legislators who care about the lives of pregnant people like me want to take action to save our lives. However, as written, HB 44 would not protect me.

The fact is, even if HB 44 works exactly as intended, it would only make the total abortion ban a little bit less deadly. It does not guarantee that my provider at my hospital will provide me emergency care without delay. While this is not everything that Texans deserve, this would be acceptable if HB 44 didn't also include dangerous language that could lead to the criminalization of abortion seekers and the people who help them.

As written, HB 44 could also lead to the criminalization of pregnant people whose pregnancy doesn't result in a live birth. Under laws that criminalize people for having an abortion, every miscarriage or stillbirth could be suspected of being an abortion. On top of worrying that anything could happen to me or to my baby, I don't want to also have to fear that I could be treated like a criminal if medical providers, police, or prosecutors think it's my fault that my baby doesn't make it. As an immigrant Latina who has seen many other Texas Latinas like Lizelle Herrera and Blanca Borrego get criminalized when seeking healthcare, this is not an unfounded fear.

I could also be at risk of criminalization under HB 44 as an abortion fund worker. As written, the bill could also make funding out of state abortion illegal. I work for Lilith Fund and Texas Equal Access Fund, two Texas abortion funds that help Texans pay for their abortion care in a state where it is still legal. In 2024, Lilith Fund dedicated over \$2 million dollars to more than 2,000 Texans for out of state abortion care, the same year, TEA Fund dedicated \$1.4 million to serve 1900 Texans who accessed out of state abortion. Without our support, the most marginalized Texans would not be able to afford the thousands of dollars it costs to access abortion care outside of the state.

As a pregnant Texan, this bill is supposed to protect me, but as written, it could criminalize me instead. I urge committee members to fix SB 31/HB 44 to remove the language that could criminalize Texans who have abortions and their support networks.

Todd Somodevilla

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you NOT TO SUPPORT HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Fix HB 44. Texans should not be criminalized for seeking abortion care—or for helping someone get it.

HB 44 could open the door to criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and those who support abortion seekers.

HB 44 does not meaningfully expand access to emergency abortion care.

It creates new legal risks for people who travel out of state for care or provide practical support like child care or lodging.

It threatens to undo decades of bipartisan policy that protects pregnant people from prosecution.

Megan Morrissey

Self

Denton, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sarah Ryan

Self (occupation: Professor)

Corinth, TX

I'm a Texas resident opposed to HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Kayleigh Garcia Roffino
Fund Texas Choice and Self
Garland, TX

I had a life-saving abortion—not because my life was immediately at risk, but because that abortion allowed me to live the life I’ve always dreamed of, the life I chose.

My name is Kayleigh Roffino, and I’m an abortion storyteller, a practical support abortion worker at Fund Texas Choice, and a mom. I am writing this testimony in both my personal and professional capacity.

I had always dreamed of becoming a mom, but I was a full-time student, working full-time, and I had no tools or support to raise a child at that point in my life.

When I was pregnant, I was running late for a presentation for my Psychology of Women class. I saw those two lines, told my roommates, called my then boyfriend, and drove to campus. After my presentation, I spent the rest of my class time writing a pros/cons list of my pregnancy.

Pro: I desperately wanted to be a mother. Con: my boyfriend regularly got drunk and put me into physical danger. Con: I was a full time student with a fulltime job without the tools to raise a child. Ultimately, I knew the right decision for me was to have an abortion.

When I found out I was pregnant, HB2 had been enacted and several clinics across the state of Texas had shut down. The organization I am lucky to be a part of - Fund Texas Choice - was created in response to that bill because Texans were struggling with traveling far and wide in and out of the state to access care. Even still, I was fortunate enough to drive just 15 minutes to the clinic, where I could get the care I deserved and needed, and then spend the rest of the day surrounded by my friends, resting, supported, and cared for. I had an abortion in my own zip code - a right all Texans should be afforded.

From my own work experience, I see how far Texans have to travel. According to our data at Fund Texas Choice, our clients are forced to travel over 1,400 miles; we spend, on average,\$1,300 per client just to access the same basic health care that I had.

Many of them have no idea how they would manage without the help of practical support and abortion funds like, Fund Texas Choice, that offer financial and emotional support.

Texans deserve the same dignity, care, and access to health care that I had. That’s why I am testifying here in opposition to HB44 (SB31) and asking you to amend the language that would be harmful to pregnant Texans and those individuals and organizations that support them.. As it is written, this bill would revive a 1925 abortion ban and reverse long-standing Texas policy that rejects the prosecution of people who have abortions. I am urging you to remove language that could criminalize abortion seekers, practical support abortion funds and other helpers.

We are asking you to protect pregnant Texans. We deserve direct services and access to care without facing additional barriers, criminalization, stigma and shame.

Jenni Griesel
Self, professional engineer
Round rock, TX

I’m a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won’t prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jack Applewhite, Mr.
Self, Retired
Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Andrea Lazar

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. As written, this bill will not stop hospitals from prioritizing legal risks over patient health; will not fully shield doctors from prosecution; and does nothing to ensure Texans can get the health care they need. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Kate Walsh

Self

Allen, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Dorothy Shelley

self

Austin, TX

I am writing to oppose passage of HB44 as it is now written and ask there to be an amendment made before it is passed. I am urging this on the grounds that it does not effectively clarify what an emergency exception to an abortion would be, and does not require doctors and lawyers to take ongoing education classes on the abortion ban exceptions. But my main concern is that HB 44 amends Texas' 1920s pre-Roe total abortion ban, which, unlike every other abortion ban in the state code, does not provide protection against criminalization for pregnant people. By potentially reviving the pre-Roe ban, this bill could allow anti-abortion extremists to arrest and even imprison Texans who choose abortion, even if they get that care out of state where abortion is legal. This would potentially make a pregnant Texan a criminal.

Lisa Dow

self, community volunteer

Austin, TX

It is vital that this bill does not criminalize pregnant women who seek an abortion in a state where it is legal.

Sarah Eubanks

Self, pastry chef

Houston, TX

I strongly oppose HB 44, the 'Life of the Mother Act,' as it undermines the autonomy of Texans and could lead to dangerous consequences for women's health. This bill, which aims to clarify exceptions to Texas abortion laws, could restrict access to necessary medical care in life-threatening situations, and it could lead to a chilling effect on medical professionals who must make difficult decisions in the best interest of their patients. We urge our representatives to vote against HB 44 and to protect Texans' right to make their own healthcare decisions. This bill will scare doctors into delaying life saving care for fear of penalty. Someone in my life who lives in Texas suffered from an ectopic pregnancy that threatened their life, I can't imagine what would have happened had she not been able to receive proper care from her doctor. In other states people have been criminalized for receiving the same care. Please do not pass this bill. People will die.

Devin Flora
self
Missouri City, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Carmen Cruz
self - psychologist/educator
Denton, TX

Hello, I am a Texas resident writing to urge you not to support HB 44 as written. Women have dealt with oppressive laws for so long and this bill could bring back the 1925 law that leads to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. In the past, the state of Texas has professed it would not prosecute people for having abortions. Please reconsider. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment. Let's go back to your roots of being a public servant.

Matlin Sader, APRN
Self
Round Rock, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, as a Family Nurse Practitioner, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Hannah Jala
self
Austin, TX

I urge the Public Health Committee to vote no on SB31/ HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could revive a dangerous law from 1925. A law that criminalizes pregnant people, practical support and abortions funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

This bill does little to actually expand access, but it does a LOT to increase risk. If passed without changes, this bill could punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB31/HB44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions, not more fear, confusion and criminalization.

Thank you.

Chelsea Green

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Natalie Hall

Self, marketer

Austin, TX

I'm a 7th generation Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This could directly harm the future of my daughter, a 8th generation Texan herself.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Nancy Reyna, Ms

Self

San Antonio, TX

As a Texas resident, I urge you not to support HB 44 in its current form. This bill contains dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and open the door to criminalizing pregnant people and those who support them.

Let's be clear: the people who are helping—whether it's through emotional, financial, or logistical support—are often family members, friends, and loved ones. They should not face prosecution for offering care and compassion. Meanwhile, the wealthy and powerful will always find ways to access abortion services, leaving everyday Texans to face the harshest consequences of this legislation.

Texas has long maintained that it would not prosecute individuals for seeking abortion care. HB 44, as written, undermines that principle and threatens to punish those who are already vulnerable.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, helpers, or support networks. Texans deserve support—not criminalization.

Zachary Wharton

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Commitee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Melissa Chaisson

Self

Beaumont, TX

ALL Humans should have rights to do Whatever they want to their body. REGARDLESS of the publics feelings or thoughts!!!!!!!!!!?

Meredith Buchanan

Self

Rockwall, TX

I am writing a public comment to encourage actual language that would save lives and allow physicians to do their jobs be included. The current language does nothing for clarification. The current language is deceitful and attempts to bring back an outdated, deadly 100 year old law. Women should not have to BEG to be heard or cared about.

Katalina Wernli

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Anna Rupani
Fund Texas Choice
Austin, TX

My name is Anna Rupani, a proud Texan and the 1st Executive Director of Fund Texas Choice—the 1st statewide practical support organization helping Texans access abortion care where it remains legal. We provide confidential, comprehensive travel and logistical support to pregnant Texans forced to leave their own state to access healthcare. We were founded in 2013 in response to yet another anti-abortion law passed by this legislature. And we're still here because you keep passing laws that push care further out of reach.

That's why I'm testifying in strong opposition to HB 44.

HB 44 claims to offer clarity for doctors, but in reality, it deepens confusion and opens dangerous doors to criminalization, disinformation, and greater harm for pregnant Texans. At best, it codifies what's already in place. At worst, it risks reviving a 100-year-old abortion ban and giving prosecutors a weapon to go after the very people this bill claims to protect.

We are in a crisis—one caused by the abortion bans that anti-abortion politicians created. In 2024, Fund Texas Choice helped over 1,300 Texans travel an average of 1,400 miles round trip for care. Each trip cost, on average, \$1,300. That's not healthcare—it's forced exile. And we do this because organizations like ours are stepping up to fill the gaps that the legislature created.

Yes, this bill removes “life-threatening” from the emergency exception—but that's a technical fix, not real progress. The definition of “medical emergency” remains out of sync with medical standards. If you truly want to protect patients, adopt the language from *Zurawski v. Texas*, which respects doctors' good-faith judgment and prioritizes patient safety.

Instead, HB 44 threatens to breathe new life into the repealed 1925 abortion ban, contradicting the ruling in *McCorvey v. Hill* and the federal injunction in *Fund Texas Choice v. Paxton*. If passed, this bill could give anti-abortion prosecutors legal grounds to threaten or prosecute pregnant Texans and those who help them. That risk is unacceptable.

The bill also imposes impossible standards by requiring care be provided in a way that offers the “best opportunity for the unborn child to survive,” even in emergencies. This does not clarify care—it delays it. Doctors should not have to gamble with patients' lives to meet vague legal thresholds. And we will never know the impact because Texas refuses to track maternal mortality—we won't even see the full scope of harm this bill may cause.

HB 44's list of “aiding and abetting” exceptions adds confusion. Anything left off the list could be seen as criminal. And the continuing education requirement lacks safeguards against anti-abortion propaganda. That's not education—it's political indoctrination.

Finally, HB 44 carves out experienced abortion providers from offering care under the emergency exception. That tells you everything you need to know about the bill's true intent.

Texans don't need more fear or cruelty. We need care.

Abby Lopez
Self
McAllen, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of “clarity.”

Emma Guevara
Frontera Fund
Austin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Carrie Ives
self
Richardson, TX

While this bill may be trying to give doctors more ability to care for women and prevent them dying, the language in it that is reactivating a 1925 bill will allow prosecution of pregnant women who travel to seek abortions or people who provide help to travel, or lodging, or emotional help. I ask that you remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers.

We have had many women give testimony before the Senate committee about how the current Texas laws have almost killed them. We know that there are women in Texas who have died because doctors do not want to be charged with a felony for providing health care. We do not need more laws targeting women that seek health care. We do not need to be going after the people helping women get health care.

Just last week, Georgia arrested a women for not disposing of her miscarriage correctly. There is no guidance on how she should have disposed of her miscarriage. There were no laws saying she did anything wrong, but they put a women who had to go to the hospital in jail. With 1 in 4 known pregnancies ending in miscarriage, any laws that could be abused and charge women with crimes need to be carefully considered for unintended consequences.

Susan McGettigan
self
Austin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB44 unless it is fixed. It claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care but as written it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, support and abortion funds and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. This bill does too much to increase risk. We can't have lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families and helpers under the guise of "clarity"

Anita Knight
TFN, TX Impact, PPTV
West Lake Hills, TX

Rep. Geren stated at a press conference on this bill that it was the most important he has ever "carried". Senate Bill 31/House Bill 44 is the only realistic option in this session to make positive steps to fix Texas' abortion laws, and it has bipartisan support. Please support an amendment to HB 44 that ensures pregnant patients will not face prosecution.

Mia Williams
Social Justice Solutions
Houston, TX

We are writing to express our deep and impassioned opposition to House Bill 44, particularly its provisions that claim to provide exceptions to abortion bans. As constituents and folks who care deeply about the well-being of our community, we feel compelled to tell you that this bill is fundamentally flawed and dangerously inadequate in protecting the lives, health, and autonomy of the people it purports to help.

While HB44 claims to offer exceptions to abortion bans, all it does is reword and obfuscate the existing, inadequate provisions that fail to adequately safeguard patients. This bill does not create real clarity or protection for those who need abortions—it merely shifts language in a way that ultimately provides no real relief. We need clear, accessible, and meaningful exceptions that directly protect patients' health, but this bill does the opposite: it keeps them trapped in a web of confusion and bureaucratic red tape.

Moreover, this bill includes references to outdated and punitive abortion bans that put patients and healthcare providers at risk. It could criminalize individuals simply for helping those who seek out the care they are entitled to. People who support and care for others—whether they are helping to secure transportation, providing resources, are at risk of criminalization. This is not justice; this is a political maneuver that seeks to limit access, punish those who care, and silence voices of support.

What HB44 fails to acknowledge, and what is truly heartbreaking, is that it does nothing to help survivors of sexual violence. Survivors of rape, incest, and abuse deserve real, immediate, and compassionate care. They deserve to be able to make choices about their bodies and their futures without the threat of violence, guilt, or coercion. But HB44 fails to address their unique needs and trauma, leaving them once again abandoned by a system that is supposed to protect them.

HB44, in its current form, does not fulfill that duty. This bill is not about protecting the rights or lives of patients—it is a political bill, written by politicians who seem more concerned with appeasing special interests and fulfilling party agendas than ensuring that individuals can access the life-saving care they need. It does not prioritize the people it claims to protect. It is a slap in the face to those who already face barriers to healthcare, and a betrayal of survivors, families, and individuals who deserve compassion, clarity, and care.

Now more than ever is the time to stand on the side of those who need you most: the patients, survivors, and families who are watching this legislation with fear and trepidation. Please, do not support a bill that jeopardizes the health and safety of our community. We deserve more than this. We deserve care, clarity, and the ability to make our own decisions about our bodies and our futures.

Sincerely,
Hoochies of Houston
A collection of advocates fighting for bodily autonomy and integrity

Lindsey Perkins

Self

Dallas, TX

My name is Lindsey Perkins. I am a lifelong Texan who lives in Dallas. I currently work for a nonprofit.

I appreciate your support of women who are experiencing medical emergencies and your effort to clarify some medical exceptions in the state's abortion bans. I also appreciate that HB 44 seeks to provide some relief to Texas doctors working in the best interest of their patients.

I request you support an amendment on HB 44 that would guarantee protection for a pregnant person from criminalization if they were to get an abortion for any non-emergency reason, including, but not limited to, a fatal fetal anomaly, rape, or incest. As a person who wants to grow my family, I am fearful of becoming pregnant in my home state under current laws. I recognize that my health—both physical and mental—is at risk should anything go wrong. Not having the option to make choices about my body or experience would be maddening and harmful. Having a child is one of the most personal human experiences.

Back to HB 44, the pre-Roe abortion ban that this bill could revive calls for 2-5 years in prison for anyone who has an abortion for any reason outside of a medical emergency. Left unaddressed, prosecutors in Texas could exploit this to criminalize pregnant people who seek necessary health care. This would be out of line with other abortion bans in the code, which explicitly exclude pregnant people from prosecution. I urge you to support an amendment that would bring this bill back in line with current law and protect pregnant people in this state.

Thank you.

Laurissa Gann

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers

Cathy Torres

Frontera Fund

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting a public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB44 unless it is fixed. HB44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies – but as written, it has other harmful consequences.

The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The threat this bill poses is serious and the consequences would be further devastating for Texas who is already experiencing a healthcare crisis. Any risk that Texans could be prosecuted as a result of this bill is too high, and we should amend the bill to make clear that the pre-Roe law cannot be used against the people we are intending to protect. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity".

Erica Esqueda

Self

Mission, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Rene Torres

Frontera Fund

Edinburg, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization

Karly Bruder
self - law student
Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on SB 31/HB 44 as it is written. I oppose this bill for two reasons.

First, this bill claims to protect pregnant people seeking care in the event of a medical emergency by clarifying the exception to the abortion ban. In reality, it does very little in the way of clarification. Yes, it clarifies that the condition need not be life threatening so long as it "poses a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function." The issue is that this language has never been understood by the medical OR legal profession. This bill does not help medical providers understand when a patient falls under this exception. This uncertainty mixed with the extremely high criminal and civil penalties for improper use of the exception understandably cause complete inaction on behalf of providers. Pregnant women do not receive necessary, even life-saving care in Texas, because of this unworkable standard. More is needed by way of clarification to actually protect pregnant women and allow medical providers to use their training and medical discretion without fear.

Second, this bill adds language to Chapter 6-1/2, Title 71, of Texas Civil Statutes. This is a 100 year old abortion ban that is incredibly dangerous for pregnant people. Amending language to this ban opens the door for the full force of this statute to be revived. This includes criminal penalties for the pregnant person, a dangerous policy that is not present in any state that has abortion bans. Texas has claimed for decades that it does not prosecute pregnant people themselves for seeking abortions. Including this revisory language to Chapter 6 1/2, Title 71 is completely unnecessary unless there is a purpose to attempt to enforce this dead law. A federal district Judge has already ruled that this statute from 1925 is unenforceable. There is no reason to include this language.

Please revise this bill and 1) provide more clarification on the term "serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function," and 2) remove all language that amends Chapter 6 1/2, Title 71, of the Civil Statutes.

Until these changes are made, I urge you to OPPOSE this bill.

Thank you for your time - a future mother who would like to feel safe while pregnant in Texas.

Cristela Torres
Frontera Fund
Edinburg, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Jayd Sepulveda
Self
Garland, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Tatian Almendarez

Self

Garland, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. My wife deserves proper care in this state whether she wants or it is medically necessary to receive an abortion. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Humberto Sepulveda

Self

Wylie, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

David Rancatore

self - Strategy Director

Austin, TX

I'm an Austin, TX resident and democrat who's urging house members to not to support HB 44 unless it is amended to remove mention of Article 4512 Ch. 6-1/2. Passing HB44/SB31 as written with Article 4512 explicitly mentioned could revive that 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Lawmakers with Texans' best interests at heart should remove this specific language and provide the same emergency exceptions across the board without explicit mention of Article 4512 -- voting for it in its current format is an acceptance of the risk and responsibility of reviving the 1925 law. This bill in its current format is a threat to Texans and lawmakers should fight to amend it.

Kelly Monroy

Self

MCALLEN, TX

This bill does nothing but harm the thousands of women seeking abortion care in this state. Pregnancies are complicated and the decision on what to do in a medical crisis should only be decided by the doctor and the patient. Government should stay out of it! There are women dying of sepsis seeking abortion care until it's too late. Women should have agency of their own bodies, not politicians with no understanding of medical science.

Rachel Gollay
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

As a Texan deeply invested in access to health care for all, I am troubled by language of this bill and urge you not to support it. And as a Jewish Texan whose faith tradition demands we value protecting life above all, abortion care is an essential part of ensuring we preserve the life and wellbeing of all pregnant Texans. Criminalizing those who seek care and those who help would not keep Texans safe.

Tylor McGrew
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 44. As a medical student planning to specialize in emergency medicine, I am deeply concerned about the harmful ambiguity in this bill and the risks it poses to both physicians and patients.

While HB 44 is presented as a clarification of abortion exceptions, it does not provide the clear legal protection that physicians urgently need. The language is vague and leaves too much open to interpretation — a dangerous situation in emergency settings where time-sensitive decisions must be made. Under this bill, doctors are still left wondering whether providing necessary care could expose them to prosecution or professional consequences.

Emergency physicians, in particular, often encounter patients facing life-threatening pregnancy complications. The current legal uncertainty already causes delays in care, and this bill does little to fix that. Instead of empowering doctors to act in a patient's best interest, HB 44 reinforces an outdated and overly broad abortion ban that has already done measurable harm.

This legislation does not give physicians confidence. It gives them hesitation. And that hesitation can cost lives.

I urge you to reject HB 44 and instead support legislation that clearly protects medical professionals acting in good faith and centers the needs and safety of patients.

Tylor McGrew
Self
Austin, TX

I am writing to express strong opposition to HB 44. As a medical student planning to specialize in emergency medicine, I am deeply concerned about the harmful ambiguity in this bill and the risks it poses to both physicians and patients.

While HB 44 is presented as a clarification of abortion exceptions, it does not provide the clear legal protection that physicians urgently need. The language is vague and leaves too much open to interpretation — a dangerous situation in emergency settings where time-sensitive decisions must be made. Under this bill, doctors are still left wondering whether providing necessary care could expose them to prosecution or professional consequences.

Emergency physicians, in particular, often encounter patients facing life-threatening pregnancy complications. The current legal uncertainty already causes delays in care, and this bill does little to fix that. Instead of empowering doctors to act in a patient's best interest, HB 44 reinforces an outdated and overly broad abortion ban that has already done measurable harm.

This legislation does not give physicians confidence. It gives them hesitation. And that hesitation can cost lives.

I urge you to reject HB 44 and instead support legislation that clearly protects medical professionals acting in good faith and centers the needs and safety of patients.

Grace Do
Self
Austin, TX

As a medical student training to become an OB/GYN, I am deeply concerned about House Bill 44 and Senate Bill 31. These bills are being presented as clarifications to Texas' abortion ban, but they fall short of offering the clear guidance healthcare providers need.

While proponents claim these bills will help define life-threatening conditions that warrant abortion, the language remains vague and leaves physicians unsure of when they can legally intervene. Minor clarifications, like defining ectopic pregnancies, do little to address the real issues that prevent providers from giving timely, life-saving care. Even in high-profile cases like Amanda Zurawski's, these bills would not have changed the outcome.

More troubling is the potential of these bills to revive the 1925 Texas abortion ban, which criminalized pregnant individuals. Reintroducing this outdated and punitive ban would significantly impact patient safety and provider practice, creating fear and uncertainty.

As someone committed to providing compassionate care, I cannot envision practicing in a state where my ability to protect my patients' lives is constantly in question. If these bills are enacted, I would seriously reconsider building my future practice in Texas. These laws not only put patients at risk but also create a hostile environment for healthcare professionals.

I urge lawmakers to listen to medical professionals and prioritize clear, humane policies that protect both patients and providers. Texas deserves legislation that supports safe medical practice rather than introducing more uncertainty and potential harm.

Gabrielle Le

self

Austin, TX

To members of the Texas House of Representatives,

I am a current third-year Texas medical student, who was born and raised in this state. I am pursuing a career as an obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) physician and will be applying to residency programs this fall. However, I am actively considering leaving Texas for my training, because I do not feel comfortable practicing in a state where doctors can be punished for providing necessary care in the best interests of their patients. The passage of HB 44, which may seem helpful for physicians and patients, on the surface, would make it even more difficult for doctors like me to safely practice medicine in this state.

HB 44 is billed as a clarification of exceptions to Texas's total abortion ban, but in reality, it does little to protect either patients or providers. The bill still leaves doctors guessing how much harm a woman must face to meet the vague standard of "substantial impairment" and fails to offer any meaningful legal protections for physicians who might face difficult, potentially life-saving decisions. In practice, this bill will NOT make physicians more comfortable performing a life-saving procedure for a patient. The ambiguity still persists. Right now, doctors are forced to weigh the life and safety of their patient - what they have trained for years to protect - with their own livelihood and career. And they will continue to do so, even with the passage of HB 44.

More troubling, however, is the language in HB 44 that could open the door to the revival of the 1925 Texas abortion ban, along with other century-old laws that were designed to criminalize abortion. These outdated laws could be used to punish both providers AND their pregnant patients, who are not criminalized under current law. If HB 44 is passed, it could effectively give legislators the power to enforce these harsher pre-Roe v. Wade laws once again, which would make these situations between physicians and patients even more difficult.

I will be treating my first patients as an OB/GYN physician in just over a year. I want to be able to provide comprehensive care without fear of prosecution, but the legal environment in Texas makes it clear that physicians are at risk. Many of my peers, myself included, are already looking at out-of-state residency options because we fear being forced to make decisions based on legal risks rather than what's best for our patients. Passing HB 44 would only exacerbate this exodus, leaving Texas with an even greater shortage of trained medical professionals willing to practice here.

I urge you to oppose HB 44, as it does not provide the necessary protections for physicians or patients and threatens to bring back harmful, outdated laws that could have devastating consequences. Our patients deserve the best possible care, and Texas should not create a legal environment that punishes physicians for providing it.

Thank you for consideration.

MERY ARRIAGA

Self

San Antonio, TX

Dear public health committee do not support sb31/hb44 as written currently the law includes dangerous language tha could revive a 1925 law that criminalized the pregnant person themselves which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that texas does not target or hurt pregnant people please fix sb31/hb44 before you vote for it take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be useful to target abortion seekers, funds and helpers

Chris Donofrio

Self

The Woodlands, TX

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB 44.

Please, pass it out of Committee.

Respectfully, Chris J Donofrio

Anikka Lekven

Self

Houston, TX

Dear House Committee on Public Health:

My name is Anikka Lekven. I am a woman living in Texas getting ready to start her family. I write to oppose H.B. 44, which is being described as a “fix” to “clarify” exceptions to Texas’s abortion bans, but does nothing of the sort. While this bill may seem like progress it does nothing to address the health care crisis caused by Texas’s abortion ban and will only make things worse.

As written, H.B. 44 would amend Texas’s pre-Roe ban from 1925, effectively reviving the law and would put abortion funds, helpers, and even pregnant Texans at significant risk of prosecution and criminalization. No one should ever be criminalized for getting or helping someone else get the care they need. Abortion access is important because it only improves the lives of the people who seek the procedure. According to Dr. Diana Greene Foster in her book *The Turnaway Study*, women's lives improved across all aspects when they were able to access wanted abortions. When women are unable to access a wanted abortion, their financial lives, their mental health, their personal relationships, and their current children's lives all have worse outcomes.

This is not a theoretical concern. The Texas AG already tried to argue that this law could be used to criminalize abortion providers and helpers after the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs* gutted the constitutional right to abortion. Texas lawmakers know that amending a law sends a powerful signal to courts and others that the law is back in play.

This bill will only further the harm and confusion Texas’s extreme abortion bans cause. H.B. 44 is exception deception, it only restates what the Texas Supreme Court has already said and offers nothing to provide doctors with more clarity. Texas’s abortion ban remains extreme. And as Members of this Committee have heard before, exceptions do not work. Every pregnancy is different and every individual is unique. There is no one-size-fits-all medical care. I want doctors to be able to make the best decisions they can without fear of being put into jail because of the restrictions around a very normal, very healthy, very important procedure like abortion. Not is it beneficial for doctors when they can make judgements without fear of imprisonment, but it helps the people they serve as well.

The Committee should not make the abortion access crisis in Texas worse. Members who are supportive of abortion rights should take seriously the risks of the bill. I urge you to oppose the bill as written, and listen to the abortion experts in Texas, including abortion funds, on how to fix this bill.

Rachael Cayton Barden

None

Austin, TX

Please show care and concern for Texas women and mothers through your support of this bill. I want to know that my daughter’s safety is guaranteed and that her medical care will be taken into significant consideration. Thank you

Karen Phillips, Ms.

Self, retired medical/scientific editor

Alvin, TX

I’m a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won’t prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Samin Arianpour

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jazmyne Sepulveda

Self

Wylie, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Donald Huschle

Self

Garland, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

Humberto Sepulveda

Self

Wylie, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Elizabeth Walters

Self/student

Fort Worth, TX

HB44 does not clarify exceptions, it is only rewording them, which does not help doctors make decisions. It is also adding a 1925 abortion ban that allows the prosecution of patients or anyone that assists them, and does not help rape or incest survivors, or anyone who is not considered "dead enough" to get an abortion. This bill is extremely dangerous for so many Texans, and endangers the lives of women who otherwise would not be at risk. The state of Texas should value the lives of all women enough to not block access to life-saving abortion care. Women should not have to be near death in order for the state to allow an abortion to happen. Too many people will die because of this unnecessary bill, and I implore the House to vote against it.

Arianna Padecio

Self

Wylie, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Jennifer Ayres, Dr.

Self

Rosenberg, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Leah Parker

self

Grand Prairie, TX

As a Texas resident, I urge you not to support HB 44 in its current form. The bill includes vague and dangerous language that could be used to revive a 1925 law and open the door to criminalizing pregnant women and those who support them.

Texas has historically maintained that it would not prosecute individuals for seeking abortions. HB 44 undermines that stance and risks turning compassionate care and support into criminal acts. This is not what Texans want or need.

Please fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, mutual aid funds, or those who help others access care. Texans deserve support and dignity—not punishment.

Kristine Robinson

Self/social worker

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds and helpers. Thank you.

Emily Hopson, Ms

self

Lubbock, TX

Dear Public Health Commitee,

I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Melanie Cofield

Self, Librarian

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. Texans deserve better, and elected officials have an obligation to enact laws that protect people, not harm them.

McKenna Tanner

Self, editorial assistant

Houston, TX

I'm relieved to see the Texas legislature working to clarify exceptions for medically necessary abortions. But I am concerned that this bill, as written, allows Texans to be charged under a law from 1920 over abortions they obtain anywhere, as well as anyone who can be considered to "provide the means" to an abortion. This law is over a hundred years old and is written too vaguely to be applied to today's Texans. HB 44 needs to use the definitions and provisions currently enacted in most recent Texas law, preventing the criminalization or prosecution of pregnant Texans and clarifying who can be considered to be involved in an abortion. If we're regulating abortion, we need to do so with today's definitions and laws, not 105-year-old statutes written for Texans who are no longer with us.

Allowing the conditions of old, previously invalidated law to apply risks endangering Texans yet again with language that no longer reflects the experience of pregnant Texans. Clarify HB 44 to use current terms and provisions, and leave out-of-date laws out of it.

Grace DeCarlo, Miss

Self

Spring, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sandra Chumchal, Ms.

Self

Bryan, TX

I support language that protects women and their physicians, friends, and family members from prosecution in any maternity or abortion decisions. All physicians and hospital lawyers must receive accurate and complete medical training. My support is for educational professionalism and for the health and wellbeing of Texas women, their families, and the labor market. Decisions must be fair and reasonable.

Wynne Prager

self

Austin, TX

Please amend HB 44 so that pregnant women will not face prosecution. Please.

Katie Wilson

Self

San Angelo, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Mary Beth Lawson

self

GARLAND, TX

HB44/SB44-I oppose this bill unless the words "life-threatening" are added back in Sec 3 (b)2. Without it everything becomes subjective and precedent court cases will not stand because they rely on that term.

Jamie McIlhattan

Swlf

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and help

Jake Wilson

Self - CPA

Fort Worth, TX

Please amend this bill to add "life-threatening" back into Section 3(b)(2).

Also, I recognize the importance of physicians knowing that Texas law protects their ability to provide life-saving care. I will be watching to see what the final version of this bill looks like.

Sofia Miller
Self, Youth Development Coordinator
Tyler, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jessica Dawson
Self
SAN MARCOS, TX

Amend the bill. You do not have the right to choose for women.

Morgan Gibson
Self
Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy—intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Pamela Mueller
Pamela Mueller
Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Robert Gregory
Self
Rockwall, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please fix SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Monica Fraga

self

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Onjheney Warren

Fund Texas Choice

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

As a longtime Texas resident, I am reaching out today to advocate for the state that I love, and for all of the Texans who make up its diverse communities. I urge you to vote NO on HB44. While this bill claims that it will protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it also contains dangerous language that could revive Texas's pre-Roe abortion law from 1925. This law could (and most likely WILL) be used to criminalize and target pregnant people in Texas, as well as any person or entity that helps them access healthcare.

For years, Texas has stated that it will NOT prosecute people seeking abortions. However, SB 31/HB 44 threatens that policy, whether intentionally or not. If passed, without any changes or amendments, this bill could (and once again, most likely will) be used to punish people traveling out of state for abortion care, and those who provide support such as childcare, transportation, lodging, or emotional help and information/resource sharing.

I implore you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any and all language that revives the 1925 abortion law, or creates any type of risk for abortion seekers, or creates pathways for pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and any helpers to be targeted and criminalized. Texans need REAL solutions, not laws that create more risk, fear, and confusion. As someone who is terrified to ever be pregnant in this state due to the current abortion policies, I am demanding that SB 31/HB 44 be amended, at the very least. Thank you.

Cheryl A Blosser

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Leah Rabe
Self
Bellaire, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Ryan Rabe
Self
Bellaire, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Rebecca Dey
Self, Customer Success
Austin, TX

As a Texas resident I urge you to amend HB 44 so that it protects the pregnant person and anyone helping pregnant Texans access abortions in states where it is still legal.

Laura Onsgard
Self
Dallas, TX

Exception Deception This bill is packaged as an attempt to provide clarity on what qualifies as "life- saving care," but the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes practical support and abortion funds, people who support abortion seekers, AND the pregnant person themselves. Now, even Texas' most extreme laws include exceptions for the pregnant person. If SB31/HB44 passes as written, that will change, and pregnant Texans could be targeted. We need everyone to take action and demand that lawmakers amend SB31/HB44 to remove the language that revives the 1925 law. I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health Committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. I dear friend's daughter nearly died because she couldn't get an abortion for an ectopic pregnancy in Dallas. She has since had a healthy child but is afraid to become pregnant again because of the draconian and misogynistic laws of our state. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Stacey Daniels
Self hairstylist
Houston, TX

No thank you! I am opposed this is an over reach into people lives.

Nicole Bruce
self
Austin, TX

While this bill clarifies that a pregnant person doesn't have to be imminently dying in order to receive an abortion, it leaves too much open room for continued confusion and therefore risks Texan lives. Specifically, I am concerned that this bill will open the door to criminalize pregnant Texans for seeking medical treatment in their best interest in states where abortion is still legal. I am concerned that the continuing education courses are not required to be factually accurate, as approved by a bipartisan group of medical professionals. I request that this bill be amended to account for these issues.

Pamela Larrave
Self - Retired
Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am writing to urge you to vote NO on HB44. The bill claims to help those who are pregnant if they suffer a medical emergency, but it contains language that could reactivate an abortion law from 1925. This law could be used to criminalize the pregnant person as well as those who help them seek access to care. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. If passed without changes, SB 31/Hb 44 could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like childcare, lodging or emotional help. PLEASE FIX this bill before you vote on it to take out language that revives the 1925 law. As a life-long Texan, I plead with you to move Texas into the future - not send us back 100 years.

Michelle Phillips
Self
Spring Branch, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Katherine Perez, Ms.
Self
Dallas, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health Committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. [Add in your own words with talking points from link in bio] The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Maria Olivieri
self - accountant
Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language which could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please fix SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Monica Davila

Self

Waco, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Dixie Houston

Self, retired State employee

Austin, TX

I favor this bill. It is so important that medical personnel be enabled to provide necessary medical services to a pregnant woman whose life may be in danger due to complications or other medical issues.

Caitrin Benavides

Self, veterinary technician

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person

themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please REVISE SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Women should not be criminalized for their need to have an abortion due to miscarriage, ectopic pregnancy, delivering a stillborn child, or trying to seek care to save her own life.

Pregnancy is one of the most dangerous things a woman can go through. Texas only started to track maternal death rate in 2013. It has rapidly increased the more restrictions that have been placed on women and abortion care. Once Roe v Wade/Dobbs was over turned Texas decided to stop tracking deaths in 2022 and 2023. Texas has repeatedly put women in danger of losing their lives due to unconscionable legislation that has been passed to punish women. Women have died because doctors are too afraid to treat them for their miscarriage. A doctor's oath is to do no harm. As we have seen when doctor's have to consider their medical license before saving a life, this gets very sticky. This puts lives in danger. Doctors would never wait to treat a child for sepsis. They would never wait to treat a man who was hemorrhaging. But even when there is no fetal activity it is some how illegal to remove dead fetal tissue from the uterus. There are no restrictions on treating men or children, just women who are of child bearing age.

We are not criminals for having a miscarriage. We are not criminals for needing an abortion. We are not criminals for wanting an abortion.

I am a 36 year old mother of a 7 year old and I had an abortion when I was 17. I would not be the amazing mother I am today without having an abortion. I am thankful that my mother allowed me to have an abortion. It was the best decision for me and for our family. I've wanted to be a mother since I was a little girl playing with dolls. But the decision to be a mother should be mine and I should be physically and financially responsible.

An abortion should be a decision made between the pregnant person and their doctor. No other medical decision involves the state except for this one. We don't need the government to weigh in on any medical decisions.

Karen Santhanam

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I support this bill. We need to trust doctors when it's taking care of the life of the mother. Exceptions are completely reasonable.

kristin Florence

Myself

dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Alena Keene

Self

Fort Worth, TX

As a mother to a very young daughter, I am relieved to see that bills are being filed in Texas to clarify what medical situations are considered legal exceptions for the abortion ban. My husband and I have considered it too risky for my health and life to have a second child while we live in Texas. And, unfortunately, because of my “advanced maternal age” not only would I be at higher risk for complications during pregnancy, but the likelihood that I can even conceive is decreasing as time passes.

So while I am relieved for other families that actions are finally being taken, I am also angry. I am angry that clarifications to the law weren't made sooner. I am angry that a list of exceptions wasn't included when the law was first passed in 2021. I'm angry that so many women had to lose their lives or their ability to have more children because Texas Republican leaders prioritized appealing to a minority of extreme anti-abortion constituents and donors over protecting the health and safety of pregnant women. I am angry that Texas Republican leaders, until now, ignored medical professionals and legal experts who warned that the vague language of the 2021 law would cost lives and lead to OB/GYNs leaving Texas to practice in other states and having fewer medical students choose obstetrics as their specialty in Texas. I believe that Texas Republican leaders share partial responsibility for some of the deaths and harm that has happened to pregnant women in Texas over the past 3 years and future harm to women in Texas that will happen as a result of the shortage of doctors in Texas who specialize in women's health.

While I believe that clarifying the language surrounding the abortion exceptions is “better late than never”, the language in HB 44 is still vague. The only specific exceptions listed in HB 44 are for ectopic pregnancies and “a dead, unborn child whose death was caused by spontaneous abortion”. What about a woman who is diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy and needs to undergo chemotherapy or other aggressive treatment to get rid of the cancer? Would that situation be considered a legal exception to get an abortion in Texas? What about a young adolescent, say 12 or 13 years old, who gets pregnant for whatever reason (be it rape or just not having been taught sex education) and the psychological and physiological damage that will occur to her young body will cause her trauma and complications for her whole life? Would her situation be considered a legal exception?

These are just a couple of examples of many situations that aren't clarified by the language in HB 44. I think HB 44 should list more specific situations that ACOG and the Texas Medical Board identify as medically necessary reasons for an abortion.

Finally I think that Section 14 of HB 44 should be removed as it applies to a 1925 law that the court has ruled is no longer in effect. The only reason to include Sec. 14 is if you are trying to make a loophole to revive that law.

Matthew Hart

Self

Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Krisa Cantrell

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. I am a public health expert with a Master of Public Health degree and experience working for public health departments. Abortion is healthcare, and women are needlessly dying because of politicians who do not understand science passing legislation that is directly killing them and blocking their access to reproductive healthcare.

James Beasley

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Elizabeth Karnowski

self

Denton, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences.

The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Shawntia Dunna

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, as a burgeoning public health professional I urge you to vote NO on HB44. It contains harmful language that could reactivate pre abortion laws that could criminalize pregnant people and the people/ health professionals that provide them care.

HB44/SB31 threatens to reverse the long standing sentiment of not prosecuting people seeking and providing abortion care. If passed this bill will punish those for traveling out of state to receive care. I ask you to review and update SB31/HB44 and remove and language that revives the 1925 Texas pre-ROE law.

Janet Mata
Self
Fort Worth, TX

As a mother I am relieved to see that bills are being filed in Texas to clarify what medical situations are considered legal exceptions for the abortion ban. And, unfortunately, because of my “advanced maternal age” not only would I be at higher risk for complications during pregnancy, but the likelihood that I can even conceive is decreasing as time passes.

So while I am relieved for other families that actions are finally being taken, I am also angry. I am angry that clarifications to the law weren't made sooner. I am angry that a list of exceptions wasn't included when the law was first passed in 2021. I'm angry that so many women had to lose their lives or their ability to have more children because Texas Republican leaders prioritized appealing to a minority of extreme anti-abortion constituents and donors over protecting the health and safety of pregnant women. I am angry that Texas Republican leaders, until now, ignored medical professionals and legal experts who warned that the vague language of the 2021 law would cost lives and lead to OB/GYNs leaving Texas to practice in other states and having fewer medical students choose obstetrics as their specialty in Texas. I believe that Texas Republican leaders share partial responsibility for some of the deaths and harm that has happened to pregnant women in Texas over the past 3 years and future harm to women in Texas that will happen as a result of the shortage of doctors in Texas who specialize in women's health.

While I believe that clarifying the language surrounding the abortion exceptions is “better late than never”, the language in HB 44 is still vague. The only specific exceptions listed in HB 44 are for ectopic pregnancies and “a dead, unborn child whose death was caused by spontaneous abortion”. What about a woman who is diagnosed with cancer during pregnancy and needs to undergo chemotherapy or other aggressive treatment to get rid of the cancer? Would that situation be considered a legal exception to get an abortion in Texas? What about a young adolescent, say 12 or 13 years old, who gets pregnant for whatever reason (be it rape or just not having been taught sex education) and the psychological and physiological damage that will occur to her young body will cause her trauma and complications for her whole life? Would her situation be considered a legal exception? (Please follow up with your answers to these specific situations.)

These are just a few examples of many situations that aren't clarified by the language in HB 44. I think HB 44 should list more specific situations that ACOG and the Texas Medical Board identify as medically necessary reasons for an abortion.

Finally I think that Section 14 of HB 44 should be removed as it applies to a 1925 law that the court has ruled is no longer in effect. The only reason to include Sec. 1

Leslie Lucas
SELF/RETIRED
DALLAS, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care. For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like childcare, lodging, or emotional help. I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

JENNIFER MCROREY

SELF/RETIRED

DALLAS, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care. For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like childcare, lodging, transportation or emotional help. I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Ann Zadeh, Hon.

self Urban Planner

Fort Worth, TX

Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote NO on HB44. The testimony from women directly impacted is powerful and I hope that you will hear them! This bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies however it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-ROE abortion law from 1925! This is a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care. For decades Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB31/HB44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy- intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging or emotional help. I ask you to fix SB31/HB44 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions- no more fear, confusion and criminalization.

Kathi Cochran

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I urge you to vote NO on HB 44 in its current form. While this bill is presented as a clarification of medical emergency exceptions, it contains dangerous and confusing language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925. This antiquated law—passed nearly a century ago before modern medicine and civil rights protections—could be used to criminalize not just doctors, but pregnant individuals themselves and the people who support them.

For decades, Texas leaders have emphasized that the state does not prosecute individuals for seeking abortions. That principle has offered some measure of reassurance to pregnant people navigating complex and personal medical decisions. HB 44, paired with SB 31, threatens to reverse that longstanding policy—whether intentionally or not.

Under this bill, the vague and expansive language could be interpreted to allow prosecution of people who travel out of state to access legal abortion care—something protected under the constitutional right to interstate travel. Even more concerning, those who provide help—like driving a friend to a clinic, babysitting their kids, offering a safe place to stay, or simply giving emotional support—could be swept into criminal or civil liability.

Let me be clear: Texans do not want to see their friends, neighbors, and family members punished for showing compassion. No one should live in fear that helping a loved one could lead to prosecution or state surveillance.

If lawmakers truly want to protect patients in medical emergencies, that goal should be addressed directly—with clear, medically accurate, and non-criminalizing language. What HB 44 does instead is introduce legal uncertainty, fear, and the potential for harmful misuse. This puts patients, families, doctors, and communities at risk.

I ask you to amend or reject this legislation unless and until it removes all references that could revive the 1925 abortion ban or create new legal pathways to target abortion seekers and the people who care for them. Texans deserve policies grounded in trust, healthcare access, and personal freedom—not more confusion, fear, and criminalization.

This is a moment for thoughtful, responsible leadership. Please listen to your constituents, legal experts, and healthcare professionals. Fix HB 44 before it does irreversible harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathi Jill Cochran

Dallas, TX

HD114

rimsha syed

Fund Texas Choice

Houston, TX

I write to oppose H.B. 44, which is being described as a “fix” to “clarify” exceptions to Texas’s abortion bans, but does nothing of the sort. While this bill may seem like progress it does nothing to address the health care crisis caused by Texas’s abortion ban and will only make things worse.

As written, H.B. 44 would amend Texas’s pre-Roe ban from 1925, effectively reviving the law and would put abortion funds, helpers, and even pregnant Texans at significant risk of prosecution and criminalization. No one should ever be criminalized for getting or helping someone else get the care they need.

This is not a theoretical concern. The Texas AG already tried to argue that this law could be used to criminalize abortion providers and helpers after the Supreme Court decision in Dobbs gutted the constitutional right to abortion. Texas lawmakers know that amending a law sends a powerful signal to courts and others that the law is back in play.

This bill will only further the harm and confusion Texas’s extreme abortion bans cause. H.B. 44 is exception deception, it only restates what the Texas Supreme Court has already said and offers nothing to provide doctors with more clarity. Texas’s abortion ban remains extreme. And as Members of this Committee have heard before, exceptions do not work. Every pregnancy is different and every individual is unique. There is no one-size-fits-all medical care.

The Committee should not make the abortion access crisis in Texas worse. Members who are supportive of abortion rights should take seriously the risks of the bill. I urge you to oppose the bill as written, and listen to the abortion experts in Texas, including abortion funds, on how to fix this bill.

Debra Dyke

self

Dallas, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health Committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. [Add in your own words with talking points from link in bio] The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Shelley Sallee

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Representatives,

This is a necessary bill against the inhumane abortion ban in this state. I am encouraging my young adult children to move before they decide to start families. It is not safe. What happened to Amanda Zurawski in the 21st century should not happen to anyone in this country. You have heard of her, but you should be ashamed that your ban caused the death of Porsha Ngumezi, a black woman who never got the chance to tell her story after she bled to death from a miscarriage.

The Texas Tribune reports that "more than 70% of practicing OB-GYNs in Texas feel the near-total ban has negatively impacted their work, prohibiting them from providing high quality, evidence-based care for their patients, according to survey results released Tuesday. One in five have considered leaving Texas, and 13% are planning to retire early as a result of the new restrictions."

Frankly, I think a lot of Republicans supported the ban for power and politics. They sacrificed the health and well-being of women and children. Stop and think what it means to force a woman to give birth to a baby who will die within days. The agony for the mother and child is something I hope you can imagine. That is not a decision you should be making for a family. HB 44 at least acknowledges that doctors have more expertise than the legislature when it comes to emergency care for pregnant women.

Sincerely,

Shelley Sallee

Zaena Zamora

self

McAllen, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

Do not support SB31/HB44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law criminalizing pregnant people—reversing Texas’ claim that it does not target them. This must be fixed before any vote. Remove all language reviving the 1925 law or enabling prosecution of abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Exemption policies do not work. They create a hierarchy of who "deserves" care, forcing patients to prove their suffering meets arbitrary standards while others are denied. No one should have to wait until they are on the brink of death to receive healthcare. The maternal health crisis in Texas—sky-high mortality rates, clinic closures, and obstetric deserts—will only worsen under restrictive laws that delay or deny care.

The only real solution is to remove all abortion restrictions. Until then, lawmakers must at least fix HB44 by stripping harmful language that:

- Revives outdated criminal penalties (risking pregnant people’s prosecution)

- Expands surveillance (targeting funds, helpers, and providers)

- Deepens inequities (disproportionately harming Black, rural, and low-income Texans)

Texas families deserve better. Stop legislating fear and suffering. Amend HB44 to protect pregnant people, not punish them

Donald CARLSON

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please remove Section 14 from the bill and define medical exceptions besides ectopic pregnancy. Thank you.

Lauren Essary

Self

Dallas, TX

I oppose this legislation because it does not fully protect pregnant Texans from the full range of complications that can result from pregnancy.

Zaena Zamora
Frontera Fund
McAllen, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

As someone who works daily with Texans seeking abortion care, I urge you to oppose SB31/HB44 as written. This bill's dangerous revival of a 1925 abortion ban would directly criminalize pregnant people—contradicting the state's claims of protecting them. Fix this bill: Remove all language that could punish those seeking care or the networks supporting them.

Exemption policies are a failure. Exemptions create a cruel hierarchy, where doctors and lawyers decide who is "sick enough" to qualify, while others suffer needlessly. No one should have to hemorrhage or develop sepsis to access healthcare.

Texas' maternal mortality crisis is a direct result of abortion restrictions. Since SB8, our fund has watched patients delay care for weeks, travel thousands of miles, or carry dangerous pregnancies to term—all while clinics close and OB-GYNs flee the state. HB44's vague language will worsen this crisis, enabling more prosecutions and fear.

The only solution is full repeal of abortion bans. Until then, lawmakers must at minimum fix HB44 by:

Eliminating the 1925 ban's revival (which threatens patients with prosecution)

Rejecting expanded penalties (which target funds, providers, and practical support networks)

Acknowledging the harm (Black, rural, and low-income Texans bear the brunt)

We need policies that save lives, not endanger them. Amend HB44 to remove all criminalization—or reject it entirely. Texans deserve better.

Celinda Torres, Mrs.
Self/ Teacher
Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Sylvia Zamora
Self
Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Fabian Torres

Self

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity.

"Women are not property, they are Americans, and have rights "

Arnoldo Becho

self

McAllen, TX

Exception bills never lead to better health outcomes. I especially think the language of the bill needs to be amended to remove any criminalization of women, organizations, and medical providers that help Texas women access care. This Bill as written is a Trojan Horse that will ultimately lead to more suffering for Texas women.

Noah Zambrano

Self/ student

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity.

Angelica Vazquez

Self/Teacher

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity.

Selene Rodriguez

Self

McAllen, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Jacob Becho

Self

McAllen, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Andy Zamora

Self

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Megan Zambrano

self

Edinburg, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Christina Cortopassi

Self- nurse

Lewisville, TX

I am writing today to register my **STRONG** objection to this bill. We have already established that it has a mechanism to trigger a law that will allow women themselves to be criminalized for seeking medical care, but aside from that, this is nothing but a feeble attempt on the part of Republican House members to look as though they are doing something to stop the deaths of women caused by our current abortion laws, when in reality, they are not. I have been a nurse for 20 years, and there is just no way that any law could clarify or cover the myriad issues that may arise in pregnancy. Furthermore, to insist that physicians who have spent decades in higher level education and training programs attend a state mandated course to further educate themselves on how to care for patients is insulting at best and ludicrous at worst. Honestly, you should be ashamed of yourselves for not introducing legislation to overturn this ban and fully restore our reproductive freedoms. My sister was pregnant with her first child 22 years ago when she found out the baby had Turner's Syndrome which was severe enough to be incompatible with life. At 20 weeks, she had to make the decision to terminate the pregnancy due to the certainty of death of the fetus and the possibility that the baby would suffer as she grew. Not to mention the risk to my sister's health if she continued to carry a fetus that could die in utero at any time. She was able to get the care she needed at a clinic 30 minutes away from her home and this procedure required 2 visits a day apart. Today, she would have to spend that night in a hotel room somewhere in another state.

WOMEN ARE DYING IN HOSPITAL PARKING LOTS BECAUSE THEY ARE MISCARRYING WANTED PREGNANCIES AND HOSPITALS AND PHYSICIANS ARE AFRAID TO GIVE THEM THE CARE THEY NEED.

You should be outraged by that. Stop trying to cover up the fact that these draconian laws are killing us. They are killing your wives, sisters, daughters and granddaughters. Women are becoming infertile. Pregnant women in this state are terrified that the state is going to kill them when something goes wrong. My 24 yo daughter has less rights than I did at her age and that is a disgrace,

Martha Becho

Self

Alton, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Arnoldo Becho

Self

Alton, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Marissa Flores

Self

Mission, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Clarissa Caceres

Self

Palmhurst, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity"

I don't understand why or how moving backwards helps anyone.

Cayla Carey

self

Kingwood, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Jeanette Olivas

Self

Austin Q, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers

Emilie Illum

self / student

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

As a female teenager, bills like this make me afraid to live in Texas and makes me seriously question moving to a different state or a new country entirely. When I'm older, I would like to be able to have a safe pregnancy, but the possibility of miscarriage (which could lead to death due to archaic bills like this one) frighten me, discouraging me from ever wanting to have children. Banning abortions doesn't stop them, it only makes them unsafe. Protect the people we KNOW are alive.

Bianca Arvin-Eagle

Self

Lago Vista, TX

My name is Bianca Arvin-Eagle and I'm urging you to SUPPORT HB 44, the "Life of the Mother" Act. Our current abortion law feels like it was shaped by chainsaw with no thought to anything other than cutting down any access to abortion whatsoever. Every girl and woman's story, health, and circumstances are vastly different and each deserves more consideration than Pregnant Girl/Woman=No Abortion Whatsoever.

Too many women have died or had their health and ability to conceive irreparably damaged from Texas's abortion law as it stands. Please SUPPORT HB 44 to save women's lives.

Nicole Schmalz

Self

Liberty Hill, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. Lastly, we need to bring back the right to an abortion in the State of Texas. I should have the right to decide what is best for my body.

Trang Hau

TEA FUND

ALLEN, TX

As a Texas resident, I am urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Suhriha Bolisetty

Self

Austin, TX

As a current medical student in Texas, I strongly oppose HB 44. While framed as improving abortion access in medical emergencies, this bill could cause significant harm. My key concerns are detailed below.

My key concerns:

1. No real protection for physicians: HB 44 doesn't change the severe penalties doctors face, including up to 99 years in prison, if their "reasonable medical judgment" is questioned. This will continue to have an effect on providing timely care, directly opposing "doing no harm" which is stated in the Hippocratic Oath that all physicians adhere to.
2. Vague language: Terms like "reasonable medical judgment" and "substantial impairment of a major bodily function" remain unclear, leaving doctors uncertain about when they can legally intervene. Again, this is directly opposed to "Do no harm" in the Hippocratic Oath.
3. No exception for mental health: The bill fails to include suicidal ideation as a valid reason for abortion care, ignoring a critical aspect of health that provides a direct pathway to harm of the pregnant person and fetus.
4. Hospital policies unchanged: The bill does not address restrictive hospital policies that can still prevent doctors from providing necessary care. This needs to be specified and clarified that the doctor will not receive any repercussions for doing so.
5. Risk of reviving 1925 ban: By amending the statute containing Texas' 1925 abortion ban, HB 44 could give the Attorney General grounds to argue this century-old law is valid again. This ban allowed prosecution of patients and those who assist them, which is counterintuitive to the goal of saving the life of the pregnant person.
6. No exceptions for rape, incest, or fatal fetal anomalies: HB 44 fails to protect vulnerable patients in these traumatic situations. These are key indications for abortive care.
7. Mandated "education": The bill requires doctors to complete state-mandated education on abortion law, likely to be influenced by partisan groups and has its own set of issues with the possibility of physicians losing their licenses if they do not complete it. It is also unclear whether this will be required of ALL practicing physicians or just Ob/Gyns, especially since other specialities (such as family medicine, primary care, etc) can come into contact with pregnant people, and as such, abortive care might be applicable to them and within their scope of practice.

As future physicians, we need laws that truly protect our ability to provide evidence-based, compassionate care. HB 44 falls woefully short, potentially putting patients and doctors at risk. Further, as a woman this bill makes me fearful of becoming pregnant in this state. I urge you to reject this dangerous bill and instead work toward meaningful protections for reproductive healthcare in Texas.

Jessica Neufeld

Texas Mon

Austin, TX

I'm urging the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. This bill does little to expand access but a lot to increase risk. It includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from persecution. Please fix HB 44/31 before moving it forward. Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Abortion is healthcare and Texas cannot criminalize people that need it and those that care about and support them.

Rebecca Walker

Self

Godley, TX

"I'm a future OBGYN in Fort Worth, TX and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it

Emily Martin

Self - consultant/bookkeeper

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I do not support hb44 as written. Currently the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIC HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds and helpers.

I also just want to remind you that overall this bill is not set up for success because exception bills do not work and that has been proven time and time again in other states. While the intention to provide clarity on life saving abortion care is important this bill is ultimately more harmful than good. Texans are already struggling and deserve better than half assed attempts to fix the broken system you all set up in the first place. Please vote no on this bill or at the very least remove the harmful language. Thank you.

Erika Cluck

Self

Mesquite, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Anne Marie Beard

Self - Multidisciplinary Artist

Austin, TX

In October of 2024, I met a 20 year old woman in the hospital who was pregnant and attempted suicide by running into 4 lanes of oncoming traffic on IH-35 out of despair over her pregnancy, lack of social support and financial resources, and lack of access to an abortion. By denying women who would rather die than carry a child to term an abortion, this law codifies a woman's Uterus as Property of The State of Texas and makes us sex slaves. The brain is a major bodily organ that we all rely on to operate and function, and pregnant women who are victims of rape, incest, intimate partner abuse or social pressure are at extreme risk for suicide in this State. Mental wellness is essential for every human being. By denying women the right to terminate a pregnancy based on the emergency of suicidal ideation, the State endorses cruel and unusual punishment and victimizes women. An unwanted child will not develop healthily and will not be loved or treated well if born. The young woman I met was strong, brilliant, and full of opportunity. The State would rather her AND her fetus die rather than caring for HER health and well-being. If this bill passes, I fully expect to see suicide rates skyrocket because no pregnant woman will seek help if feeling depressed or suicidal, and if they do, they could be medically incarcerated for the duration of their pregnancy. Forced to carry to term in jail, as that is how mental health facilities operate in fact. What new layer of hell is this State entering into? Do not pass this bill or the deaths of more women will be on your hands. How many more women must DIE? Why is being a woman in Texas a death sentence? What God of anyone's understanding forces a woman to sacrifice her mental and a physical health to the Government?

Susan Brotman

self

Austin, TX

Please amend HB 44 to prevent pregnant people from being subject to prosecution and criminal enforcement under this bill. We need clarity and limits on such extreme measures. Respectfully, Susan Brotman

Elsie Sullivan

Self Retired Geologist

JONESTOWN, TX

Passage of this bill is absolutely critical. It's an act of deliberate cruelty to do otherwise.

Beth Link
self, educator
Denton, TX

Hello, I'm a Texan and I am writing today to urge you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes some pretty dangerous language that could end up criminalizing pregnant people and those who help them. I had a complicated birth with my daughter and I know doctors and patients need to have the freedom to be able to make the best medical choices they can in difficult situations for the health and safety of their patients. This bill could revive a 1925 law and imperil the lives of Texans like me who have complications during pregnancy or birth. It has often been said that Texas lawmakers won't prosecute people for having abortions—but this bill threatens that. I urge you to fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. People should have bodily autonomy and be able to make their own decisions about their health and families.

BLAIR WALLACE

ACLU of Texas
Houston, TX

As the Reproductive Freedom Policy and Advocacy Strategist at the ACLU of Texas, an abortion storyteller, and a mother, I am urging the House Public Health Committee to oppose HB 44 unless it is amended to remove harmful language that could revive Texas's 1925 abortion ban. This outdated law could be used to criminalize pregnant Texans and the people who support them. That includes abortion funds, practical support volunteers, and even friends and family who help someone travel out of state for care.

HB 44 does not do what it claims to do. While it presents itself as a clarification of when doctors can intervene during medical emergencies, it fails to meaningfully expand access and instead opens the door to new criminal penalties. It threatens to reverse a longstanding policy in Texas that has historically protected people who have abortions from prosecution, regardless of political party. This bill would make it easier to criminalize Texans for making deeply personal medical decisions and for helping others do the same.

As someone who has had an abortion, I know what it means to make that decision with care, love, and a full sense of responsibility for myself and my family. I also know how vital that access is. Texans deserve access to abortion no matter the reason. Our dignity and autonomy should not be conditional on nearly dying or on someone else's judgment of whether our pregnancies are worthy of compassion. HB 44 continues to divide pregnant Texans into two groups: those who are allowed to access abortion under extreme, narrow exceptions and those who are punished for making decisions outside of that framework. This kind of cruelty is not a policy solution.

In 2023, more than 35,000 Texans traveled out of state to access abortion in a clinic. Another 25,000 used telehealth to get abortion pills. Criminalizing this care and the people who make it possible will not stop abortion. It will only make it more dangerous, more stigmatized, and more devastating for our most vulnerable communities.

Every miscarriage, every stillbirth, every complicated pregnancy could become a legal risk under HB 44. Survivors of domestic violence, people working in unsafe jobs, and Texans experiencing homelessness will be the first to be investigated and punished. We have already seen what happens when politicians write vague laws about pregnancy and leave the consequences to patients, doctors, and families. People suffer. People die. This bill does not fix that. At best, it reinforces the failures of the current law. At worst, it makes things even more dangerous.

HB 44 must be amended to remove any reference to the 1925 abortion law and to eliminate language that could criminalize pregnant people and helpers. Texans need real access to abortion care, not more fear, confusion, and punishment disguised as clarity.

Please vote no on HB 44 unless it is fixed.

Blair Wallace
Reproductive Freedom Policy and Advocacy Strategist
ACLU of Texas

Jennifer Ecklund

Self - Attorney

Dallas, TX

My son and I would likely not be here today if Texas's abortion bans had been in effect when I was pregnant. I am a healthcare and constitutional lawyer, and I oppose HB 44 as written. The amendment of the pre-Roe statutes could subject women and people who help them to prosecution for obtaining legal abortions out of state. Even those experiencing complications for wanted pregnancies will still need to travel--but now under threat of prosecution for leaving Texas, or subjecting their loved ones who support and help them to civil and criminal penalties as well. Protecting doctors and hospitals from liability does not serve the women affected, because if they choose wrong--it's less risky for a hospital to refuse abortion care and assume the risk of a wrongful death case than it is to subject its providers to criminal liability and life in prison. Unless the language removing the amendment to the 1925 laws is removed, this bill hurts women more than it helps.

Rebecca Bullard

Self / communications

Austin, TX

I almost lost a friend due to the lack of clarity around exceptions in the existing Texas abortion ban, so I would support a bill that provides physicians with greater clarity so they can protect the lives and health of those carrying dangerous pregnancies without fear of prosecution. But as it is currently written, I DO NOT SUPPORT HB44, which would allow the state to prosecute abortion funds, helpers, and potentially even patients who seek care that would save their own lives.

Samantha Mitchell

Self, Nonprofit development officer

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill makes it clear to me that it would criminalize of pregnant people and those who help them. This is an obscene overreach of the state. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to prosecute or otherwise target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Seeking medical help should never be a crime.

Andrea Alvarado

Self

Buda, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity." I urge to please FIX HB 44.

Sarah Gamblin

self

Denton, TX

Please fix the provision in this bill that potentially criminalizes people who travel to other states to obtain abortion care. This would be an unconstitutional violation of civil rights.

Anna Lohmeyer

Self

Denton, TX

B

Anna Lohmeyer

Self

Denton, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

John R Blanton Jr. Blanton

Self, retired

Bedford, TX 76095, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or those helping others seeking reproductive health care. Texans deserve quality reproductive care and support, not punishment.

Lee Michaels

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

SILVIA GROSSI

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Roberta Stavelly

Self

Point, TX

For too many reasons to list, Texans should not be criminalized for seeking abortion care—or for helping someone get it.

Abbey Goodman, LMSW

Self - Social Worker

Eules, TX

I'm a lifelong Texas resident, women's rights advocate, and Licensed Master Social Worker urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Please fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. All Texans deserve support and access to lifesaving healthcare, not punishment.

James Rowe, Rev.

self

Denton, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Bill Holt
self
Austin, TX

While Texas desperately needs to amend the danger to women that an abortion ban causes, HB 44 does not expand access to medically necessary abortion. It dangerously criminalizes pregnant people who travel out of state seeking medical care, as well as anyone who assists them with simple things like travel and child care. Rather than providing life saving relief for pregnant women, it could easily lead to more persecution and suspicion. Imagine a hotelier requiring pregnant women (and only pregnant women) to provide proof for their travel plans.

Enrique Guevara
“Self” Teacher
Brownsville, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of “clarity.”

Helen Lueders
Self/Librarian
Houston, TX

Hi,

Just one of your constituents writing to say how important it is that we not pass HB 44 until lawmakers amend SB31/HB44 to remove the language that could target and criminalize abortion funds, people who support abortion seekers, AND the pregnant person themselves. This is incredibly dangerous for everyone and does not aid anyone, except for politicians benefitting from whipping up conservative outrage (while simultaneously gutting programs for children and education in our state). We should not be harkening back to language of laws from 100 years ago, we should be moving forward, but for now I will take what I can get in terms of not making things worse than they already are.

Laurie Pierce
Self
DALLAS, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Aubree Bailey

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Alison Satt

Self

Austin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Laura Gallier

Self-retired CPA

Houston, TX

Please support HB 44 to protect the life of the mother during complications of pregnancy. Trust doctors; give them certainty that they can provide medically necessary healthcare without risk of jailtime.

Melanie Manville

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers."

Amy Spiro, M.A

Self

Austin, TX

The bill does not substantially expand the “exceptions” that already exist in the law. At best, this bill simply codifies current law as set out by the Texas Supreme Court. The bill, as written now, barely improves the extreme shortcomings of the current exceptions framework; it is not worth risking renewed criminalization of pregnant people, abortion funds, and those who support abortion seekers.

This bill, as written, targets pregnant women from Texas who travel to other states to seek abortion care. Current law criminalizes healthcare providers that deliver abortion care, but does not target pregnant women. Although I oppose Texas' abortion ban, criminalizing what Texans do in other states is terrible public policy and unenforceable. What Texas needs, according to physicians on the front lines, is language clarifying that physicians can save a woman's life if she is experiencing complications related to a pregnancy or miscarriage. What we don't need is another draconian law that treats Texas women like property.

Krystal Wyatt-Baxter

self, educator

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas mother and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. While I applaud any good faith attempts to reverse the harm that is currently being done to pregnant women in Texas, I cannot support the bill written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Nathan Prihoda

Self, lawyer

League City, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Nicole Wilking

Self

Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and go against claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law.

No law can fully account for the complexities of pregnancy or ensure that patients receive necessary care. Other states have shown that exceptions are largely unworkable, leaving most people without access even in emergencies and creating dangerous risks for patient health. As written, this bill will not stop hospitals from prioritizing legal risks over patient health. Please fix it to protect doctors and prevent the criminalization of pregnant people.

Bevyn Howard

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. We have all seen the deadly affects these bans have on Texans. If you truly care about our safety, you should have no issue taking out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. I have been raised in a Republican household all my life. And yet, even when I told my own conservative father about this, he was disgusted and aghast. Your job is to listen to your constituents and make decisions that help your people live healthy and full lives. Here's your chance to keep that promise and ensure more women don't bleed out in their cars or in hospital beds.

Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it.

Aurora Carter

Self. Small business owner

Cove, TX

Vote no! Women have suffered under the abortion bans in Texas, and this does nothing to help. HB 44 will criminalize Texas families and will criminalize women who WANT to have families.

Cyral Miller

Self

Austin, TX

Please vote no to HB44! This bill will criminalize pregnant Texans and those providing practical support for reproductive health travel including child care and lodging. We need you to amend SB31/HB 44, so a bill purportedly intended to clarify medical emergencies does not also target pregnant people and make it a crime to help someone get an abortion outside of Texas.

Jaime deBlanc-Knowles, Ms.

self, writer

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, As a Texas resident, I urge you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Lisa Stone

self, educator

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to NOT support SB31/HB44 as written. We know this is motivated by anti-health politics, not concern for families, parents and children.

Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a scary 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people.

Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Make it clear you don't want to target women and/or doctors/hospitals, and you do want to protect public health.

Deirdre Benavides

Self

FORT WORTH, TX

I am a Texas resident from Tarrant County urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 abortion ban and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions, but this bill threatens that promise. Please redraft HB 44 and remove language that could be used to target abortion seekers and the people who support them (including but not limited to abortion funds). Pregnant Texans deserve a safety net, not punishment. This is already such a precarious state to be pregnant in, Texans deserve better. I urge you to change the language of this bill. Thank you.

Cynthia Mulcahy

Self/artist

DALLAS, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you NOT to support HB44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions--this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Yvonne Gonzalez

Self

Cedar Park, TX

I am submitting public comment to implore the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does much to increase risk and puts Texas women's life in danger. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Oksana Brody

self

Lancaster, TX

Dear Public Health Committee I urge you to oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently the bill includes dangerous language that could revive the 1925 law that criminalize the pregnant person themselves which would reverse long-standing policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please fix SB31/HB44 before you vote on it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. Abortions are medically necessary for the physical health of the pregnant person. Many have already died from their pregnancies because they were denied the help they needed. Abortions are still expensive for low income families and criminalizing citizens that help them will be detrimental for the pregnant person. This needs to stop now. Please oppose SB31/HB44 as written to save future patients from their deaths and not get penalized for seeking necessary medical help. Thank you.

Alexandra Yost

Self

Austin, TX

HB44 needs to be revised before being voted on. This bill has the potential to criminalize pregnant people and those who help them which will hurt women in the long run. We do need better clarification for doctors in order to save women's lives in medical emergencies, but this bill has too many other harmful consequences attached to it. I urge the committee to vote against this and revise the bill so that women are not harmed for attempting to seek medical care. As a woman who works in a gynecological field of medicine, making sure women have access to life saving care and funds and those that help them get that care should not be prosecuted.

Lynn Hoare

Self/educator

Austin, TX

ible.

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Cristina Adams

Self, writer

Austin, TX

I am writing to request that the members of the House Public Health Committee support an amendment to HB 44 that ensures pregnant patients will not face prosecution.

HB 44 may be an attempt to "provide clarity," but it fails to protect pregnant Texans, who deserve access to healthcare without fear of criminalization.

Women across the state are right to be concerned that extremist politicians like Ken Paxton would attempt to prosecute them for seeking healthcare outside the state. However, Texas is a state where women increasingly cannot get decent healthcare because of politicians like Paxton. It is a state where women miscarry and die because of politicians like Paxton. And so pregnant Texans find themselves having to seek healthcare in another state because of politicians and misguided laws.

The United States is still a free country, where people (and that means women, too) can travel wherever they like, for whatever reason they like. It is nobody's business where or why people travel in this country, and nobody – not even Ken Paxton -- has the right to interfere with our right to travel freely or inquire why or where we travel.

I expect you, as responsible public servants, to amend HB 44 and protect pregnant Texans from criminalization if they have an abortion for any non-emergency reason, such as a fatal fetal anomaly, rape or incest. It is, at the very least, the right thing to do for Texas women.

Ghazaleh Moayedi, Dr.
Pegasus Health Justice Center
Dallas, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Dallas, a fellow with the American College of OBGYNs, and Board Certified in both obstetrics and gynecology and complex family planning. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. I am one of the few physicians left in Texas that has the skills to provide abortion care. I oppose this bill because as the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help me or my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care.

Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed.

We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to *us*, the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it.

Diana Crabtree, Dr
self—physician
Houston, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Houston and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it

Kristen Brown
Self, professor
San antonio, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jennifer Teague
Self, OB/GYN
Dallas, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Dallas and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it

Lindsay London, RN
Self
Amarillo, TX

I urge you to support an amendment to HB 44 that will not allow any prosecution of a pregnant person. Our abortion laws in Texas are so cruel, and cause such immeasurable harm to pregnant people seeking the care they need to determine their own futures or even to save their lives. Please amend this bill. Thank you.

JAMES GALLAGHER
self
JONESTOWN, TX

This bill will save women's lives and make it easier for doctors and nurses to make life saving decisions quicker and easier. Please support this bill.

Kathleen Campbell, 2
Self, Retired
Dallas, TX

I urge you to amend HB 44 to bring it in line with other laws that explicitly exempt pregnant persons and their helpers from criminal prosecution. HB44 needs to be amended to remove any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers.

Stephanie Gallagher
Self
Jonestown, TX

Please support this bill to save women's lives.

Téa Johnson, Policy & Advocacy Manager, Austin Areal Urban League

United Leagues of Texas

Austin, TX

Between 2021 and 2022, Texas experienced a 12.9% increase in infant deaths compared to a 1.8% increase experienced by the rest of the U.S.² The situation intensifies among Black women who are three times more likely to die from pregnancy or childbirth, when seeking reproductive support. In 2024, though new medical guidelines were adopted through the Texas Medical Board to address patient care, members of the board and physicians alike raised concerns that this guidance didn't go far enough to ensure doctors felt safe treating patients. HB 44 would mandate Texas Medical Board and the Texas State Bar to adopt more clear language and develop training courses for doctors and lawyers on the state's abortion laws and specified emergency exceptions.

This bill's main aim is to clarify exceptions to this state's abortion laws only after a physician has determined that continuing a pregnancy would pose life-threatening risks to the mother. The unborn child's survival is still prioritized until it is deemed it would increase the mother's risk of death or serious impairment. The increased clarity around treating ectopic pregnancies and miscarriages would remedy one of the larger critiques of the state's current abortion laws that have often led to vague definitions of medical emergencies related to pregnancy. HB 44 is poised to improve maternal health outcomes across the board by leading to more timely medical interventions, thereby reducing risks to pregnant patients' health and lives in emergency scenarios.

Although HB 44 will not alleviate the broader challenges posed by Texas' stringent abortion laws, it is an important step forward to enable that goal. This legislation would enable effective communication with the patient and those involved in her care. All indicators would point to HB 44 eliminating disparities by lifting excessive restrictions that jeopardizes patients' access to health care. The United Leagues of Texas (ULoT) comprised of the Austin Area Urban League and Houston Area Urban League, strongly support HB 44 and urge our lawmakers to put the lives of mothers first in their deliberations on this bill.

Katherine Riley

Self

Austin, TX

I am submitting a public comment to urge the Public Health Committee to oppose HB44 unless it is fixed. HB44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies, but as written, it has other harmful consequences.

The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

As a longtime reproductive justice advocate, birth doula, and mom to a 3-year old, I care deeply about the impacts of abortion bans in my state and know that we can do better to amend this bill and get it to a place that works to keep people alive, healthy, and out of jail for simply receiving healthcare. This bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Sharon Loveall

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please clarify wording of this bill to include "life-threatening".

Amy Garcia, Mrs.

Self

Richardson, TX

I am a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions- this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texas deserve support, not punishment.

Alexis Bay
Frontera Fund
Edinburg, TX

Please take out language referring to the 1925 abortion ban. This bill should pass without acknowledging that law or you are making it possible for the Attorney General to go after people and organizations helping Texans everyday. Without abortion funds, how will Texans afford to get care out of state? You will put more people in danger than ever before. Please amend this bill ASAP! If the bill is not amended - DO NOT VOTE FOR IT! No amendment, no yes vote! Please FIX THIS BILL!

Samantha Guu
self, engineer
Austin, TX

Please don't pass this bill. As a woman, I do not want myself, my physicians, or anyone who may help me in obtaining an abortion if a future pregnancy goes wrong to be afraid of prosecution. This bill still does not make the law clear. I do not want to have to go into septic shock and be in certain danger of death to receive abortion care! I do not want people who have not been trained as doctors (people in government - sorry, that includes whoever is voting on this too!) attempting to decide and argue about whether or not ANY procedure my doctor(s) performed was actually **MEDICALLY** necessary. This feels as stupid as asking courts to debate and pass judgment on whether or not I really need my wisdom teeth removed, and if I didn't, fine and jail my dentist for killing, I don't know, the nerves to my wisdom teeth or something. I won't argue the case of abortion here; I know that's not something this bill can decide one way or another. Just note that although you work in government and may trust the process, the majority of the public does not. It is harrowing to even be accused of a crime, especially if you are in healthcare, even if you are eventually found not guilty. It smears your name. This is **NOT** a bill that will help women get the medical care we may need that you of the Texas government have decided to so cruelly deny us these last few years. If you pass this bill, you will scare women into dangerously trying to self-abort, as if they go to a physician and are denied there will be proof that they attempted to obtain an abortion that some doctor was too scared to give even if it was necessary, and if they attempt to leave the state with help, they and any helpers may be prosecuted, and anyone who finds out may try to take them to court. **NONE** of this helps women! It just makes it way too dangerous to get pregnant in the state of Texas. **PLEASE** don't pass this bill, for the sake of any women you love who may try to get pregnant. Do not doom them to a painful death for having a pregnancy that isn't perfectly healthy!

Karen Conyngham
Self Employed
Austin, TX

As a Texas resident I am urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Thank you.

Jennifer Gulick, MD

Jennifer Rose Gulick, MD, PLLC

Frisco, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Frisco, TX and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it"

Ashleigh Miller, Ms.

Self

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Andree Ziweslin-Hartley

Texas Equal Access Fund

Irving, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Shawn Hartley
Texas Equal Access Fund
Irving, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Patricia Hoyt
Self
Austin, TX

I respectfully ask members to support an amendment that would protect pregnant patients from prosecution under this bill. It is not right that a woman should risk imprisonment for making the difficult choice to terminate a pregnancy. This is the year 2025, not the 1920s, let's not move backwards with our laws and treatment of Texans, especially Texan women.

Sarah Wilpitz, Mrs.
self - homemaker
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 44 unless the words "life threatening" are added to Section 3(b)(2). Without that everything is more subjective and precedent court cases won't stand because they used that term. Thank you!

Sara Farmer
Self, Writer/SAHM
Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Ryan Authier

Self, mental health practitioner

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Brandy Castillo

self

alvin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the public health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies- but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. This bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Aysha Doucet

Self

Lubbock, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Alexandra Authier

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Heather Hopper

goodyoga

PLANO, TX

HB 44 will save women's lives. It should be passed.

Kim Varela

The Bridge Collective

Pflugerville, TX

I appreciate an effort to clarify the exceptions within the states abortion bans, but I implore the committee to amend this bill. As written, it hides clauses that could be used to criminalize people who seek abortion care and the organizations who exist to help them exercise their right to bodily autonomy. As an organization who has supported people seeking abortions for years, the Bridge Collective and other abortion funds are the targets of bills like this. It's horrifying to see the state, and even some representatives who have long claimed to be supporters of abortion rights or even women's rights in general, supporting a bill that would make getting routine healthcare so much more difficult.

The truth is people need abortion care for so many reasons. As a new mom, it was a constant fear that an ultrasound would reveal something had gone wrong. This happens to people in Texas every day. But the reality is, whether someone wants to be pregnant or not, their access to abortion care should be the same. And if the state is going to limit when someone can get that healthcare, it's deplorable that they would then aim to criminalize them and folks helping them. I urge the committee to amend this bill!

Genevieve Willgrubs

Self

El Paso, TX

I've lived in Texas my whole life and I'm urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Daniel O'Malley

self

Austin, TX

I have been a Texas resident for nearly 50 years and I am urging you to NOT support HB44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that would lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them, and impede and criminalize the free movement of citizens through the country.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions; this bill promises to do precisely that and make a liar out of its elected representatives.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Aileen Garza

Frontera Fund

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose HB 44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse long standing policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funders, and helpers.

Stephanie Marquez

Self

Dallas, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose HB 44/SB 31 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. Any bill that continues to uphold the tenets of Texas abortion ban is a deception that Texans cannot fall for. Texans deserve the right to receive the care they need. I ask that you fix this before moving forward with HB 44/ SB 31 by removing the language that signifies to the 1925 abortion ban.

Nevaeh Adams

Delta Sigma Theta

Lubbock, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Christine Unruh

self

Dallas, TX

Hello! I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Lisley Canales

self

Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote NO on HB44. As it is currently written, this bill is deceptive to the public. HB44 falsely claims to protect pregnant people in case of a medical emergency, instead the language in this bill could lead to the criminalization of pregnant people themselves. Texas officials have claimed they will not target pregnant people, however, passing this bill would allow and empower officials to do just that. I ask that you vote no on SB 31/HB44 or fix the language before moving forward. Remove any language that would revive the 1925 law or create new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions!

Molly Van Dyke

Self

Austin, TX

Can lead to life-threatening outcomes for patients given the continued lack of clarity for a) at what point patients are medically "allowed" to have an abortion, leading to increased risk for physicians to face legal consequences for providing lifesaving care. b) the actual legal risk posed to physicians providing their best medical judgment. This bill does not benefit patients nor medical providers and in fact further criminalizes abortion and the threat against medical providers when an abortion is necessary to subvert lifelong medical complications and potentially death for patients.

Karen Brown

self (I am a longtime Republican voter)

Arlington, TX

I'm a Texas Republican resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written! I can't believe Texas is going backward! Women whose health and lives are in danger must go to other states to get medically recommended pregnancy termination. I know, because this happened to my daughter. Please help women who desperately want their babies but whose lives are in danger.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Dalesha Tate
Self
Lubbock, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Mary Katherine Marston
Self- project manager
Rowlett, TX

As a concerned Texan and a staunch advocate for reproductive rights and personal autonomy, I stand in strong opposition to Texas House Bill 44, which seeks to impose an outright ban on abortion. This bill is an unconstitutional and harmful measure that threatens the health, safety, and well-being of Texans, particularly women, and those who can become pregnant. First and foremost, this bill is a direct infringement upon the fundamental right to choose what happens to one's own body. The right to access abortion is a deeply personal decision that should be made by individuals in consultation with their healthcare providers, not determined by lawmakers with no medical expertise. This bill disregards the privacy, autonomy, and dignity of those facing difficult and often life-altering decisions about their pregnancies. It undermines the principle that personal medical decisions should remain between individuals and their doctors, free from government interference. Lawmakers are NOT medical experts, it should be explicitly up to doctors to make the best decisions for their patients. Doctors do not become doctors to do harm, they become doctors to help and care for people at their most vulnerable times. They apply their medical expertise and compassion to care for patients as they navigate the difficult situation of abortion. By potentially prosecuting Doctors, we are jeopardizing the already dwindling numbers of OBGYNs in Texas, which will ultimately lower the standard of care and lead to worse outcomes for women.

Additionally, this bill will disproportionately harm marginalized communities, including low-income individuals, people of color, and those living in rural areas. The restrictions and potential ban on abortion access will make it even more difficult for those who already face barriers to healthcare, including financial limitations and lack of access to nearby clinics. By restricting abortion access, Texas is not only stripping people of their right to make decisions about their own bodies but also perpetuating systemic inequities in healthcare.

It is also important to note that the restrictions proposed in HB 44 could force individuals to carry unwanted pregnancies to term, which may be dangerous to their physical, emotional, and mental health. The language is not clear enough to protect women in cases of rape. Many people who seek abortions do so because continuing their pregnancy would pose significant risks to their health, or because they simply are not prepared to raise a child. This bill ignores these complexities and the very real consequences that could arise from forcing people to carry pregnancies against their will.

Erin Parekh
self, editor
Houston, TX

I am a Texas resident who has heard from working OB-GYNs that HB 44 will not give them any more of the clarity or freedom they need to treat their patients in crisis. Meanwhile, it seems possible it will be interpreted by controlling legislators or judges to criminalize people seeking abortion care or those who help them achieve abortion care out of state. This is unconscionable; we must pass a law allowing doctors to use their own medical judgment and consultation with their patients to treat as needed without extending the legislative overreach that is already putting many residents at extreme risk to life and health.

Ashley Brandt

Self

Frisco, TX

Reasonable medical judgment is an unworkable standard. I consider my abortion in 2022 reasonable. However, the state's AG and other prolife doctors think it was unreasonable. To the point that Dr Ingrid Skopp insinuated holding both of my dead twins may have been "therapeutic". House representative Tom Oliverson, my anesthesiologist during my daughter's birth, bragged about making the laws while I sobbed.

At 12 weeks one of my identical twin daughters was diagnosed with Acrania. Her skull failed to fuse leaving the contents of her cranium exposed to the fluid in her sac. After 9 days my non viable twin went from acrania to exencephaly. Her brain tissue was now popping out through the hole in her head dissolving in the fluid. Her condition was visibly worse. At almost 14 weeks under the cruelty of SB8 I would have to wait until her cranium tissue deteriorated enough to kill her in my womb, sending me into labor killing her viable twin with her. This meant my viable daughter would ALSO die. This also put me at risk of polyhydramnios, placental abruption, fertility issues, infection, and other serious medical issues that could kill me and both of my twins. Again, I got this information at 12-14 weeks. I was not yet showing enough of a risk to abort my non viable twin because MY life was not actively in danger, even if my viable twin's life was. I knew a fetal reduction after 16 weeks had a lower survival rate for my viable twin, but would I be at risk "enough" by 16 weeks? As long as my unviable twin had a heartbeat she was untouchable under SB8, even if it meant suffering for me and my viable twin. I had no options in the state of Texas. In fact the state's attorney general and staff have directly stated that I was NOT a medical exception. HB44 does absolutely NOTHING to change situations like mine. Exceptions DO NOT WORK.

I was forced to FLEE our home to get care out of state. It cost THOUSANDS of dollars to leave the state for out of pocket medical care. THOUSANDS for a single injection and 10 min procedure that allowed my body to reabsorb my nonviable twin and allowed me to carry my daughter to term as a low risk singleton.

I was DESPERATE to save the life of my viable daughter. I was DESPERATE to stay physically and mentally healthy for my son and husband. These things were NOT an option in Texas under SB8 and they would STILL not be possible under HB44.

I was experiencing a medical emergency that was not enough of an emergency for my in-state doctors to risk prosecution. We fled to a state where the laws did NOT prevent my team of medical professionals from going over all of my options and risks, where I was not just treated with respect and dignity as a patient, but as a grieving pregnant mother trying to make the best possible choice for ALL of my children. Laws like SB8 and HB44 prevent doctors in the state of Texas from giving their patients the same level of care. I beg you, PLEASE, protect Texas women. HB44 is simply NOT ENOUGH.

Jill Kaber-Bartlett

Self

San Antonio, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Marina Roberts
Self, grantwriter
Austin, TX

Dear Committee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. This bill currently includes dangerous language that could be used to criminalize pregnant people, reversing Texas's long-standing commitment not to target or harm pregnant people. Before you support this bill, please demand that all language targeting abortion seekers, funds, or people supporting a loved one with an unwanted pregnancy.

Emily Witt
Texas Freedom Network
Austin, TX

As a Texas resident and supporter of reproductive healthcare access, I must urge you to reject HB 44 as written. While I believe many members of the committee truly intend to save lives with this legislation, I believe others know the bill could revive a dangerous 1925 law that makes it illegal for Texans to help others access care. We are not prisoners of the state, and we should not pass legislation that makes it possible for more Texans to be criminalized. ?

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. I'm calling on our lawmakers, especially those that I know support Texans and our right to healthcare, to amend HB 44 before its passage. We cannot compromise when it jeopardizes the freedom of Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Danielle Longueville
Texas Equal Access Fund (TEA Fund)
Denton, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Lisa Feldhake
Self
Eules, TX

I don't believe that this bill will do anything to clear up the confusion created after Dobbs. Politicians are not able to write medical policy because so few of them go to Medical School. Unless this bill clearly says that "A Doctor may use their medically judgement to determine if a medically emergency will harm a pregnant woman." Anything other than that is a nonsense.

Shaheen Manohar, Mrs.
Self
Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Ria Stoicovy
Self, insurance
Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

marisol cervantes, ms
self "operations manager"
edinburg, TX

my representatives, these are people individual bodies who know what's best for them. we've been indoctrinated enough to have babies all our life. Trust a pregnant person when they say they know it's best for them not to have a child. it is not an easy task to abort a baby for anyone, but probably the doctor who is paid for it.

Tiffany De Leon
Self
San Antonio, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.
Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sandra McCarrie
Self/ retired
Greenville, TX

This bill needs to have the verbiage
Life-threatening back in Section 3[b] [2]. So that the bill is not diluted.

Laura Zhang
Self; grad student
Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee,

I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that provides the opportunity to revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves. This reverses the longstanding policy and claim that Texas doesn't target or hurt pregnant people. Take out any language that revives 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. Thank you.

Chera Cole, Dr.
Self, Librarian
San Antonio, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, do not support SB31/HB44 as written. HB44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies--but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, which would potentially criminalize pregnant people, the practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. I urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 until the language that would accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers has been removed. Clarity is needed, but not in a way that would have further harmful consequences.

Landon Lockhart, Dr.
Self / geologist
Houston, TX

I oppose HB 44 unless the words "life-threatening" are added back in Section 3(b)(2).

Addison Simmons
Self
Garland, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies-but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

As a mother myself, I support the option of choice. But if that is not an option- then I will support the option that helps women the most and this is not where I find that.

Lindsey Davis
Self, teacher
AUSTIN, TX

Hello. I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies--but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law potentially criminalizing pregnant people, practical support and abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity." Thank you.

Stephen Stoicovy, Mr.

Self/broker

Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

M Torres

Self

Houston, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - and as it is written, this bill is a threat to Texans.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Georgia Rodriguez

Self

Houston, TX

My name is Georgia, and I work at a local abortion advocacy organization dedicated to mobilizing and supporting communities across Texas. I am writing to express my firm opposition to HB 44 as it is currently written.

HB 44 is not aligned with the standards set by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and it will not meaningfully protect or save the lives of patients seeking abortion care in Texas. Instead, it risks further criminalizing the support networks—families, friends, and community organizations—that help people access the care they need, often across state lines.

This bill is opposed not only by abortion funds and advocacy groups on the ground here in Texas, but also by every plaintiff in *Zurawski v. Texas*—individuals who experienced unimaginable suffering due to our state's current abortion laws. HB 44 would not have helped any of them get the healthcare they deserved.

We urgently need a real fix to the devastating consequences of Texas' abortion bans, but HB 44 is not it. Abortion funds and advocacy organizations have raised serious, evidence-based concerns, and they should be taken seriously. These organizations are not driven by politics or media attention—they are driven by compassion, care, and community.

Abortion funds do far more than help people pay for abortion care. They connect people to essential health services like cancer screenings, STI testing, contraception, prenatal care, and more—especially for those who are low-income, targeted, or otherwise disenfranchised. If HB 44 passes as written, these life-saving support systems could be severely compromised, cutting off entire communities from trusted health resources.

I urge you: do the right thing. Listen to the experts on the ground. Amend this bill to remove the criminalization of support networks—or oppose it altogether. Texas deserves better, and our communities are counting on you to protect—not punish—those who care for them.

Sara Reeves
Self
Round Rock, TX

Thank you for serving on the Texas House Public Health Committee. Your commitment to public health tells me you understand the importance of safe access to life-saving health care.

HB44 is an important bill, but in its current form it is a dangerous bill. Since Texas banned abortion, we have been pleading for clarification to protect pregnant people experiencing medical emergencies and providers' ability to care for them. HB 44 attempts to provide that clarity – but it also risks causing further harm by opening the door to criminal prosecution of pregnant patients.

As written, the bill amends Texas' 1920s pre-Roe abortion ban, which, unlike every other abortion ban in the state code, provides no protection for pregnant people. By potentially reviving the pre-Roe ban, HB 44 could allow anti-abortion extremists to arrest and even imprison pregnant Texans.

Under current Texas law, pregnant people still deserve access to abortion in the case of medical emergencies, and they deserve that access without fear of criminalization. Please amend HB 44 to ensure this.

Ali Schmidt
Self, restaurant director
Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Isabel Pask
n/a
Dallas, TX

Hello! My name is Isabel Pask and I'm a Dallas, Texas resident asking you not to please not support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could allow a 1925 law to be put back into place and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

It is vital that women have access to necessary medical care.

Cahill Ordones
self, policy professional
Austin, TX

Hi, my name is cahill, and I'm a constituent from Austin, 78731.
I'm writing to express my concern about SB 31 / HB 44. This bill revives the 1925 Texas state abortion ban — a law that makes it a crime to have or help someone get an abortion, even when that care is legal in another state.
The bill does not clarify anything — it increases the risk of criminalization for pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who supports access to care.
I urge you to oppose SB 31 / HB 44 unless it is amended to remove the 1925 law and the language in Section 14.
Texans deserve real safety and support — not more criminalization and confusion. Thank you.

JoAnn Fleming, Executive Director
Grassroots America - We the People PAC
Flint, TX

Grassroots America – We the People Political Action Committee opposes HB 44 in its current form due to the deletion of the “life threatening” phrase from Section 3 of the bill. Striking that phrase means that any impairment of a bodily function – including perceived mental health issues – can be (and historically have been) used to justify killing unborn babies. Texans don’t want that. We understand the intent of the bill is to provide clarity regarding the scope of the “life of the mother exception.” The bill incorporates the Texas Supreme Court’s decisions in *In re State*, 682 S.W.3d 890 (Tex. 2023), and *State v. Zurawski*, 690 S.W.3d 644 (Tex. 2024) [see HB 44, Section 15].

The current version of HB44 misses that marked intent. It won’t stop the expansion of elective abortions. Instead, it will end up codifying expansion for the precise reason that Courts cannot use *In re State* and *Zurawski* TX Supreme Court decisions as interpretative supports if the language the Supreme Court applied in those cases is no longer in the statute!

The Supreme Court’s decisions focused on the phrase “life-threatening medical condition” in Health & Safety Code 170A.002(b). If you allow HB 44 to remove the phrase “life threatening,” the Courts will have every reason to believe that the Texas Legislature changed its mind.

Again, removing “life-threatening” is a signal to Texas jurists (historically textualists) that the Legislature intended to change the meaning of the statute.

Please do not reverse the historic, pro-life victory of *Dobbs* and our state’s strong pro-life protections for innocent human life. Please work with Chairman Hughes, author of companion bill SB 31, to correct this bill. Please don't sacrifice precious lives made in the image of God.

Diana Gomez
Self
Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Sarah McManus, Mrs.
Self
Denton, TX

I want my daughters and their doctors to be able to make the best, possibly wrenching decisions about their lives and fertility without your death panels fumbling through paperwork, trying to see if they’re almost-dead enough yet. This bill adds onerous requirements to situations that paper pushers should keep their noses out of. These exceptions make no one safer. They put government inspectors in my kids’ vaginas. Get out!

Larry Lambertz
myself
Houston, TX

The majority of Texans favor a woman's right to an abortion. Look at the polls. Making a law-abiding citizen a criminal because they don't agree with a lawmaker's religious precepts is a dangerous move. There should be no criminal penalties related to the abortion issue. Women have abortions because they feel that they must.

Kaitlynn Lavallee

Self

Edinburg, TX

The language of this bill needs to be amended to remove any indication of reviving the 1925 law. We need to progress forward, not backwards, and laws need to reflect the body autonomy for women.

Milinda Morris, DR.

self

Houston, TX

Chairman Van Deaver and Public Health Committee members, I am opposed to HB 44. I am a retired Pro-Life Obstetrician and Gynecologist of 35 years, and I must oppose this Bill. I believe the "fears" of Obstetricians and Gynecologist from the passage of the Texas Abortion Bill is unfounded and spurious. Every Board-Certified Obstetrician and Gynecologist understands that an ectopic pregnancy is considered a surgical emergency, is life threatening for the mother, requires surgical evacuation of the ectopic pregnancy, as is not considered an abortion and has never been considered an abortion. To be confused about the lawfulness of performing surgery to remove an ectopic pregnancy is ridiculous and is being used by Pro-Abortion Obstetricians and Gynecologists to water down the Texas Abortions laws, as in the example of HB 44. Standards of care of obstetrical and gynecology patients are determined by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology. "Reasonable Medical Judgment" does not equal Standards of care. "Reasonable Medical Judgment" should be removed and replaced by "Standard of Care" in every incidence in this Bill. Reasonable Medical Judgment is not equivalent among physicians. "Reasonable Medical Judgment allows for personal biases to determine and impact medical care. Pro-Abortion Obstetricians and Gynecologists are going to use their "reasonable medical judgment " to perform abortions where Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists are going to see opportunities for expectant management and only performing abortions upon an intrauterine demise. Premature rupture of membranes in a second trimester pregnancy is a perfect example. This Bill will increase the number of abortions performed in Texas. Just look at the number of Democratic co-authors to this Bill. There is no need for HB 44. The Texas Abortion Law needs to stand unamended. There is no need for "education". Board Certified Obstetricians and Gynecologists know exactly what the standards of care are for these conditions. If Medical School Faculty are failing to properly train and confuse medical students and residents regarding the Standards of Care and lawful practices, then that is on them for their educational incompetence in training and allowing their personal politics to override their medical judgment and management.

Marian Ladd

Self

Austin, TX

Hello, my name is Marian Ladd and I'm a constituent from Austin, 78746.

I'm writing to express my concern about SB 31/ HB 44. This bill revives the 1925 Texas state abortion ban, a law that makes it a crime to have or help someone get an abortion, even when that care is legal in another state. The bill increases the risk of criminalization for pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who supports access to care.

I urge you to oppose SB 31/ HB 44 unless it is amended to remove the 1925 law and the language in Section 14. Texans deserve real safety and support, not more criminalization and confusion.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tisha H

Self , entrepreneur

Austin, TX

Please amend this law. I know people who want to get pregnant. But they've had health complications. They want to contribute to the future labor force but with a law like this, not only will it risk the life of a future laborer, it will risk the life of the mother, and risk the life of me, a supportive friend. Imagine if you could not be friends with your friend simply because they want to experience the miracle of childbirth? Imagine if you were a contributing factor to the decline of a future workforce? imagine the societal and economic impact.

Heather Binagia

Self, engineer

Porter, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment

Keryn Dias, Dr.

self, Ob/Gyn

Pantego, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Dallas and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it

Teresa Dreise

Self

Austin, TX

Fix HB44 or vote NO

Edith Cabada

Self

Richmond, TX

Dear Public Health Commitee,

I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, It contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions-not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Karissa Escamilla

Self

Cedar park, TX

As a young person in Texas, I'm already scared of about what might happen if I get pregnant and can't get care. SB 31/ HB 44 is supposed to bring clarity, but it actually puts people like me in danger.

The bill brings back a 1925 law that makes it a crime to get an abortion - and doesn't protect pregnant people from being prosecuted.

It also puts people at risk who might help me - like my family, friends or a hotline volunteer.

If you care about Texans, you must remove the parts of the bill that reference or change the 1925 law.

Please don't make things even harder for us.

Kim Pilcher
self; Controller
Missouri City, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. When Texas Right to Life president John Seago testified at committee hearing, he said that the bill “updates the pre-Roe statutes”—in other words, it revives the 1925 ban.

james cowan
Self
temple, TX

I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Abigail Bernier
Self
Bedford, TX

I’m a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won’t prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Kathleen Chute
Self cleaner
Marathon, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Patti Schaub
Self
Dallas, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Chun Kwok Wong, Dr.

Self, retired physician

Conroe, TX

I am a retired physician and I oppose HB 44 in its present form. I have never been involved with, participated with, or associated with abortion practices, so I do not have any direct interest in this matter, but as a member of the society and medical profession I have deep concern on this matter.

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Cassandra Sodergren

Self

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

William Cohen, Dr.

William Z Cohen M.D. P. A.

Houston, TX

I am a Family Physician who has provided OB/GYN care including miscarriage management during the past 44 years of my practice.

I strongly urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed.

HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't allow lawmakers to "accidentally" criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity."

Thank you for your consideration.

-Dr. William Cohen, Houston, TX

Jody Maas

Self

Arlington, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. A return to the dark ages is not protecting pregnant women.

Christina Roehrig

Self, Educator

San Marcos, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Lisa Hinds

self

Spring, TX

“Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.”

Charlotte Galvin

Self, RN

Austin, TX

SB31/HB44 is packaged as an attempt to provide clarity for providers on what qualifies as “life-saving care”, but the bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes practical support and abortion funds, people who support abortion seekers, AND the pregnant person themselves. The risk that patients could be prosecuted as a result of this bill would be devastating. I urge you, our lawmakers, to amend the bill to make clear that the pre-Roe law cannot be used to prosecute abortion seekers. There is no reason to revive a 100 year old law that serves and protects NO ONE.

Brandy Bumpus

Self

Spring, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Rhiannon Jones, Ms.

Self - Retired

Burleson, TX

I oppose HB 44 as written and I urge the Public Health Committee to not to support it.

Ashok Venkatraj

Self

Leander, TX

I respectfully urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless amended. While the bill purports to clarify abortion access in medical emergencies, its current language could revive a 1925 statute, exposing pregnant individuals, abortion funds, and those assisting with out-of-state care to criminal liability.

This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy protecting individuals from prosecution for seeking or supporting abortion care.

HB 44 does little to expand access but significantly increases legal risk. Clarity should not come at the cost of criminalizing patients, families, and care providers.

Thelma Young

self

Seguin, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. As a woman who has been pregnant in Texas it is horrifying to me that this law might go through.

Ashley Pipkin-Jones

Self

Houston, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers

Aurora Knapp

Self

Bedford, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I am a Texas resident, a woman, and I am urging you to not support SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers. If these restrictions aren't an attack on women, as is claimed, why would you vote in laws with language that punishes any pregnant woman, and strips her of basic human and civil rights? Fight for the rights and protection of ALL of your citizens—even the women.

Bronwen Dyll

Frontera Fund

Addison, TX

Women's health care

Emma Tracy

self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Madison Pickett

Self

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Heather Cervantez

Self

Lubbock, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Suzi Eberhard

Self, artist

Richardson, TX

No one should be penalized for seeking abortion care! Nor should anybody be penalized for helping someone to seek abortion! It is none of the government's business.

Maria Koegl
self
Watauga, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Jennifer Occhipinti
self
Granbury, TX

As a Texas resident and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, I am urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill contains vague and dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and open the door to criminalizing pregnant people and those who support them. As a social worker, my ethical responsibility is to empower individuals to make informed decisions about their lives and to connect them with appropriate resources. HB 44, as currently written, would put me—and many others—in legal jeopardy simply for doing our jobs.

Texas has long stated it would not prosecute people for having abortions. This bill threatens to reverse that commitment and would create a chilling effect on healthcare providers, advocates, and mental health professionals alike.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be interpreted to target abortion seekers, support funds, or helpers. Texans deserve compassion, care, and clarity in the law—not fear and punishment.

Stephanie Thompson
Self, Visual Artist
Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written. This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them. Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that. Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Thomas Nieland, Mr.
Self
Alamo, TX

SB 44 is purportedly going to smooth the way to women getting access to abortion services. However, hidden in the language of the bill is a possibility of reviving a 1925 law making it illegal to get an abortion, travel out of state to get an abortion, or helping a woman do either of those! Women need abortion for numerous reasons, and government must stop trying to enforce rules that interfere with their bodies, personal decisions, and their doctors' help in those decisions! Stop trying to impose radical religious zealots' beliefs onto everyone! In the USA, we believe and have encoded freedoms in our Constitution, including the Bill of Rights! Please help women and the majority of our citizens in allowing them autonomy over their own choices and bodies!

DIANNE REECE

self / consultant

HOUSTON, TX

Texans don't have to agree on every abortion question to know that pregnant patients deserve the best care, and doctors deserve respect. Texas legislators should fix Texas' abortion laws so they reflect our shared Texas values.

Unfortunately, many lawmakers are unwilling to acknowledge the Texas abortion ban goes too far. Women are risking death and lifelong health problems from pregnancy complications, while other women are afraid to get pregnant for fear they can't get help if something goes wrong. And doctors are leaving Texas because they fear being accused of crimes for providing pregnancy care.

Your support of HB 44 is crucial to prevent more unnecessary deaths of Texas Women.

Elizabeth Anderson

Self

Plano, TX

I am 47 years old. I have never been pregnant but I have Lupus and in 2022 I had a stroke. I am alive today because my doctors were able to act quickly to a complex situation without fear of recriminations. I applaud this bill but I do hope you will add protections to the doctors and patients so that they cannot be sued or punished later if they must terminate a pregnancy to save the woman. We can argue all day about when a fetus becomes viable but the woman on the table is a 100% viable human being with a family and friends who count on her. Why should the doctor have to discount that? Please ammend this bill so that our visits to the ER are not more catastrophic than they already are. Thank you for considering my statement.

Brooke Helfers

self

Richardson, TX

Hi, my name is Brooke and I'm a constituent from Richardson, TX. I'm writing to express my concern about SB 31/HB 44. This bill revives the 1925 Texas state abortion ban - a law that makes it a crime to have or help someone get an abortion, even when that care is legal in another state. This bill does not clarify anything - it increases the risk of criminalization for pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who supports access to care. I urge you to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is amended to remove the 1925 law and the language in section 14. Texans deserve real safety and support - not more criminalization and confusion. Thank you.

Kristin Kokal

not applicable

Harlingen, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has other harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution.

Elizabeth Wolff

self, retired

Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Thank you for your attention.

Meg Sheehy

Self

Buda, TX

I urge a vote in favor of this bill. I believe that all decisions related to abortions should be left up to the patient and the attending physician. As a woman considering having children here in Texas, I fear for my safety under the current system where I know I may be denied life saving treatment due confusion over current laws relating to abortion and reproductive Healthcare. I trust my physician in determining the best possible care and treatment for me and don't want them to be afraid of repercussions causing them to hesitate to provide me with the care I need. The state should not be involved in these decisions at all.

Kevin Williams

Self, musician

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident and urge you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions - this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers.

Texans deserve support, not punishment

Saphyre Bell

Self

Lancaster, TX

Dear Public Health Commitee, I oppose SB31/HB44 as written. Currently, the law includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law that criminalizes the pregnant person themselves, which would reverse longstanding policy and claims that Texas does not target or hurt pregnant people. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Veronika Granado

Self

Kingwood, TX

Hi, my name is Veronika Granado, and I'm a constituent from Kingwood TX 77339.

I'm calling to express my concern about SB 31 / HB 44. This bill revives the 1925

Texas state abortion ban - a law that makes it a crime to have or help someone get an abortion, even when that care is legal in another state.

The bill does not clarify anything - it increases the risk of criminalization for pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who supports access to care.

I urge you to oppose SB 31 / HB 44 unless it is amended to remove the 1925 law and the language in Section 14.

Texans deserve real safety and support - not more criminalization and confusion. Thank you.

Terri Koen
Self
Austin, TX

I am a mother of two and know firsthand the stress of pregnancy and the constant worry over my own health and those of my children. I am so thankful both of my children were conceived and delivered before these draconian laws were put in place that handcuff our doctors and women from making the right choices for each individual case. While my pregnancies were healthy and normal, I know women who had medical issues during their pregnancies that required difficult decisions to be made. I have mourned with my friends who have lost their pregnancies. But I'm MORE thankful that my friends all survived. Not everyone is that lucky. With today's laws, women's lives are in danger. I fully support HB 44, putting the lives of women in the trust of their doctors and giving doctors their full professional power save women.

Kim Vernon, MD
Self-Ob-Gyn
Dallas, TX

Amend HB 44: While I think this bill is well intended, I fear it is not going to solve the issue of ER physicians or OB/GYN's having the clarification that they need to treat pregnancy complications. I feel there will still be confusion as the language is still vague regarding the different complicated situations that pregnant women can experience. Who gets to decide if the situation warrants termination based on the potential for death or impairment of bodily function? Clearly, it should be a panel of 2- 4 physicians or an ethics committee at the hospital. It should not be judges who do not have the medical knowledge or background to decide complex situations such as these. These are frequently situations which cannot be delayed or decided by the court after a day or two.

The bill outlines ectopic pregnancy and miscarriages but the woman diagnosed with cancer in early pregnancy or the pregnant woman with kidney failure, the young woman with cardiac anomalies whose IUD failed, who decides these conditions. What about the woman pregnant with an anencephalic fetus? This fetus has no chance of survival and it should be the woman's decision whether to continue the pregnancy to delivery or decide to terminate for a lethal fetal condition. This is not addressed in the bill either. Again, I applaud the efforts to help clarify the current complicated and confusing situation in Texas. Shouldn't this be the decision of the practicing physician and or a panel of physicians rather than the courts? Personally I would always want a physician that is trained in whatever applicable area of expertise to advise me as to my medical condition. Please clarify this bill to help physicians, but most importantly to help the women in Texas to get the best medical care possible!

Thank you for your consideration, Kim Vernon MD

Jason Miller, Dr.

Self, Scientist

Dallas, TX

My name is Jason Miller of Dallas. Thank you for considering how Texas's abortion bans affected my family and why I oppose HB44. Texas laws kept my wife and me from making decisions about her health, our children's health, and the future of our family. We were forced to travel out-of-state for the essential and life-preserving medical care that my wife needed: an abortion.

In August 2022, I was alarmed when my pregnant wife was so sick that she hadn't stopped vomiting after 36-hours. I drove her to the ER, where she was diagnosed with hyperemesis gravidarum and we were shocked to find out that we were going to have twins.

Over the next few weeks, my day started and ended with trying to help her function through the sickness. All I could do was distract our toddler as the sounds of her vomiting echoed down the stairwell.

On top of it, we learned at a second trimester ultrasound that one of the twins was going to die. Half of his brain was filled with fluid and genetic testing revealed a diagnosis of trisomy 18. I am a PhD chemist with research in genetic diseases. I understood, perhaps better than anyone, that our son would never survive.

The answer was simple. She needed an abortion of one twin to save the other and save her. Before Roe fell, we would have been able to get this routine procedure in our hometown where we could process and grieve in our own home. But now, Texas owned my wife and children and I felt helpless as we were sent home to wait, every day with a greater risk of losing both twins or even her own life and destroying our family.

Days later, she texted me while I was at work. She couldn't speak to call. Another round of uncontrolled vomiting, another ER visit. I rushed home to drive her to the hospital because she was too sick to do so herself.

I occupied our toddler in the waiting area, hoping that I would not ever have to explain to him that mommy would not be coming home.

An abortion was the best chance we had of saving our healthy twin and preserving my wife's life and health and our family. Yet there were no options or next steps. We had reached the point where healthcare ends in Texas.

Who could turn against us under the bounty laws? Was it safe to attempt 12 hours in a car through rural Texas while she was violently sick? We knew flying was faster, but what if we were pulled out of the security line and questioned? Should we leave our cell phones at home and only use cash?

I have never gotten in trouble with the law. Not even so much as a speeding ticket. HB44 would codify into law that my actions to save my wife and our healthy son were a felony.

Exceptions to abortion bans are a fiction. They don't exist in Texas. The cruelty inflicted on my family is living proof of that.

HB44 would make me a felon for the simple act of trying to do what is best for my family. This government overreach is unacceptable. Everyone should have the right to make private healthcare decisions with their doctor. I oppose HB44.

Lauren Miller, Mrs.

Self, Agriculture Sustainability Professional

Dallas, TX

My name is Lauren Miller. I'm an 8th generation Texan and live in Dallas with my husband, Jason, and our two young sons. I oppose HB44 and I appreciate the opportunity to address how state-mandated bans on essential medical treatment delayed my access to care, creating an unnecessary medical emergency and risking the life of my healthy twin son.

In August 2022, my husband and I were delighted, albeit shocked, to find out that I was pregnant with twins. At the routine 12-week ultrasound, everything changed: one of our twins had a long list of horrible fatal diagnoses. In speaking with our medical team, we kept arriving at the same awful conclusion: This twin was going to die. It was just a matter of how soon. And every day that he continued to grow, he put our healthy twin and myself at greater risk.

There were no next steps. There were no treatment options. It was a devastating diagnosis and we had reached the point where healthcare ends in Texas.

Despite being severely ill with hyperemesis gravidarum, I was not dead enough for a single fetal abortion. That is the reality created by the Texas abortion bans and which would be further enshrined in HB44.

If my set of circumstances had occurred before Texas' abortion bans took effect, the doctor treating me could have performed an abortion immediately. Instead, we were sent home to wait and see whether the predictions of my decline would come true – that I would get sicker and sicker.

Sure enough, just three days later, Jason rushed me to the emergency room for a second time. Exceptions to abortion bans do not work in the real world: they just create confusion and force a delay of care.

I was severely dehydrated and shaking uncontrollably as the team in the emergency room worked to stabilize me. I was at risk of organ damage to the kidneys or brain. But how close to organ damage did I need to get before I could access the abortion that I needed? What uACR ratio must I hit? Ketonuria? Proteinuria? Coherence of speech? Level of consciousness? I was slurring as I tried to make my brain work. These are questions for doctors, not lawyers, but why should I be forced into this situation at all?

If HB44 was really intended to offer clarity in a situation like mine, the bill would start and end there. It would not create new pathways to criminalize my husband or myself, such as by resurrecting a 1925 law.

In Texas now, these cruel, inhumane laws trump, even paralyze, the judgment and training and experience of astute and caring medical professionals and result in a stunning lack of options for patients like me.

Our only choice was to flee our home state to protect the health and lives of our viable twin and myself. What about the people who don't have funds or connections or resources to travel? Why is half of this state undeserving of bodily autonomy?

This level of government overreach just can't be the way it is.

Recognizing the dangers posed by this bill, I stand opposed to HB44.

Iris A Frausto

Self

San Antonio, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Heather Warren

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Please think of the women who are already going through something they would never choose to go through. To make them suffer is cruel and unusual punishment and I am ashamed of the direction this state and nation are heading with regards to women's health and women's rights. It is embarrassing to be an American now.

Malena Ramirez, Barista

Self / barista

Edinburg, TX

Stop Controlling How Humans Do What They Want With Their Bodies. Humans Have The Right To Control What Is Theirs. It Is Inhumane To Stop Medical Practices Regarding Abortions. You Cannot Stop Abortions From Happening. You're Going To Be The Cause An Epidemic. Less Safe Abortions; For All Humans In This Country. You're Smart Enough To Know & Understand This Is Wrong. Let Us; Humans Of This Country Practice Safety. Stop Projecting Crimes Over Medical Practices. Stop Criminalizing Our Human College Degrees. Stop Making Crimes Popular. You, Another Human, Has Power We Commoners Don't Have Yet. Find It In Your Heart To Help All Other Humans In Our Society Live With Safe Practices Of Attaining Abortions. One Nation, Under God, Indivisible, With Liberty And Justice For All.

GLORIA LITT

self

AUSTIN, TX

I implore the committee to give serious consideration to making an exception in the law to provide care to women under-going a dangerous pregnancy that may put her life in serious harms way or contribute to her death. This is a medical decision that should only be made by a woman and her medical provider. Trust our doctors to help patience make the best decision for the optimal health outcome is the cornerstone of the practice of medicine. There is not moral purity to allowing the death of a pregnant woman when her life can be saved by a medical procedure, especially when that procedure is as safe as a medical or surgical abortion. Millions of women find themselves pregnant each year and thousands will have to make the absolutely devastating decision to chose the life of their child or their own life when it comes to continuing a harmful pregnancy. Not allowing doctors to assist women in making the right choice for the situation will put more than one life in danger -- it could have the effect of leaving other children without a mother, partners without their significant other, society with a valuable member. Please allow doctors to make medical decisions, not politicians.

megan Shanks

self /electronic funds svcs

Tyler, TX

This bill is problematic in nature for a multitude of reasons and a danger to adults and minors in the state of Texas. The bill criminalizes potentially life saving actions taken by anyone from a family member to a stranger. Passing this would endanger Texans across the state and have far reaching consequences that we can't possibly understand the full extent of now.

Joyce Compton

self - office manager

New Braunfels, TX

Women do not need added stress during their pregnancy. Please vote for women to have more rights, especially in areas where they are being so limited.

Teresa Taylor

Self

Sachse, TX

These exceptions do not provide clarity to doctors and they endanger the lives of women. Doctors need more clarity and women need to be able to access life-saving healthcare.

Carla Ann Martinez, Dr.

Self

El Paso, TX

I'm an OBGYN and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it.

Cecile Montgomery

Self

Fort Worth, TX

Support without changes

Samar Taj

Self - Student

Richardson, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Chase B

Self

Dumas, TX

Hi, my name is Chase, and I'm a constituent from Amarillo.

I'm calling to express my concern about SB 31 / HB 44. This bill revives the 1925 Texas state abortion ban — a law that makes it a crime to have or help someone get an abortion, even when that care is legal in another state.

The bill does not clarify anything — it increases the risk of criminalization for pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who supports access to care.

I urge you to oppose SB 31 / HB 44 unless it is amended to remove the 1925 law and the language in Section 14.

Texans deserve real safety and support — not more criminalization and confusion. Thank you.

sara ines calderon
self, business owner
buda, TX

I am urging the committee to oppose SB31/HB44 unless it is updated to be less harmful. It claims to clarify when doctors can perform life saving abortion care in medical emergencies but, as written, has harmful side effects. The bill includes language that may revive a 100 year old law that may criminalize pregnant folks, practical support, abortion funds, and anyone helping Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who get abortions from prosecution, and ultimately result in more deaths of the "unborn" and the women who carry them.

Deana Johnston
Texas Eagle Forum, Communications Director
Dallas, TX

I oppose HB 44 (& SB 44) unless the words "life-threatening" are added back in Section 3(b)(2). Thank you.

Metzli Navarro Gonzalez
Self
Dallas, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.
This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.
Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions-this bill threatens that.
Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sofia Pena
Frontera Fund
Pharr, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the Public Health committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. Couched in language meant to portray help and clarity, HB44 could undermine decades of bipartisan policy that is especially crucial to protect access to life-saving, out-of-state, legal abortions. HB 44 contains language to criminalize whoever is actually needing the abortion services, a rare and particularly notable danger of HB44. Experts are speaking out on how HB 44 could criminalize and eventually incarcerate the most vulnerable woman involved in this whole situation! How many other bills have you supported knowing it could enact such a law? Experts agree this hypothetical is enough to ask for it to be urgently fixed or not passed at all.

Criminalizing pregnancy outcomes is not a life-saving exception, nor is anything found in HB44, which again, removes access to life-saving, out-of-state, legal abortions. Protecting women, mothers and the entire family, never involves criminalizing vulnerable women. I urge those in power who agree, to be discerning and watchful when trying to enact systems that support safe places to have a family and raise children.

Anthony RODRIGUEZ
Self
Amarillo, TX

Repeal the 1925 law and allow abortions

Maleeha Aziz

Maleeha Aziz (Deputy Director)

ALLEN, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Auburn Rutledge

Self, Operations Manager

Austin, TX

SB 31 / HB 44 is not a fix — it's a deception. While framed as a "life of the mother" clarification, this bill would revive dangerous, outdated laws and open the door to criminally prosecuting pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps someone get the care they need — even when that care is legal in the state where it's provided.

Since the 1925 law was previously considered unenforceable because it hadn't been changed or used for decades, even small changes to the 1925 law — like adding supposedly "clarifying" terms such as "medical emergency" — are harmful, and could signal to prosecutors and courts that the law is actively enforceable.

That gives prosecutors legal grounds to enforce criminal charges under the statute, despite courts previously saying it was no longer enforceable.

Any changes to the 1925 law, no matter how minor they seem, would undo decades of Texas policy that has intentionally protected people who have abortions from being prosecuted.

We do not support SB 31 / HB 44 or any bill that attempts to 'clarify' Texas's abortion ban. The only real solution is to repeal the ban in full.

However, if lawmakers insist on moving this bill forward, they must, at the very least, remove the language that refers to the 1925 Texas state abortion law, and the language in Section 14 that amends it.

Texans deserve clear access to care without fear. They deserve policies that treat their lives like they matter — not bills that quietly expand criminalization and confusion, while pretending to offer protection.

Harold Wallace

Self retired

Tyler, TX

Please stop criminalizing abortion. Those who need an abortion are making a difficult choice, and need our support, not threats of legal action. People are dying because doctors are facing terrible risks.

Make Texans free!

Kate Coffield

Self

Austin, TX

Please do not pass this as it will not serve to help pregnant people. I hope you will consider the damage this could cause to already vulnerable people.

Allyn Lowell

Thompson Coburn LLP

Dallas, TX

Thank you to the Chair, the Vice-Chair, and the members of the Committee for the opportunity to provide my perspective. My name is Allyn Lowell, and I'm an attorney from Dallas and a mother. I'm speaking against HB 44 insofar as it revives the 1925 laws. And I want to speak about what that could look like for parents like my husband and me.

My husband and I have twin twelve year olds—a daughter and a son. I know all parents worry, and we are no different. But because we have to out for their safety, we have to consider the risks out there, regardless of how uncomfortable it is.

When they were very young, I worried about one of them falling into a pool or swallowing a battery. But I'd also planned for those situations—I had a pediatrician on speed dial, I'd identified the nurses and doctors in my neighborhood (just in case), we'd planned the route to the ER in case we ever needed it, and on and on. No one wants to imagine terrible things happening to their kids, but I do want to be prepared, especially when it comes to my kids' safety.

As my kids head towards the teenage years, the scenarios I worry about have changed, but my reaction—to protect them at any cost—has not. And so, if, God forbid, my son were to be diagnosed with cancer, I wouldn't hesitate to take him to St. Jude's Children's Hospital in Memphis. And no one would question that. If my preteen daughter were victimized, however, and became pregnant at her young age, I could not take her out of state to get her medical care that's not available in Texas, like an abortion. That's because this bill, as written, revives the 1925 laws, which criminalize furnishing the means, including to assist another—such as a minor child—to obtain an abortion, though the abortion would be legal where it occurs.

I don't want to think about these things. But I know bad things happen, and I know the members of this body know that bad things happen, including of children. While I appreciate the drafters' attempt to clarify medical exceptions for pregnant women, it should not come with the steep price of criminalizing parents who exercise their parental rights in assisting their children in obtaining legal health care elsewhere.

Therefore, I urge the Committee to either reject the bill as a whole or to amend it, as suggested by numerous witnesses, such as Elizabeth Myers, to remove any possibility of revival of the 1925 laws.

Thank you,

Allyn Lowell

Yue Guan

Self

Fort Worth, TX

I'm an OBGYN in Fort Worth and a member of the American College of OBGYNs. I oppose HB44 and the bill is not in line with ACOG policy. As the bill is written, HB44 will not meaningfully help my colleagues who provide abortion care save any additional lives in Texas, while simultaneously criminalizing the support networks and families that help people travel out-of-state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. In addition, all the plaintiffs in *Zurawski v Texas* oppose this bill, as it would not have helped any of them receive the healthcare they needed. We desperately need a fix to Texas' abortion laws, but this bill is not the fix we need or that experts support. Please do the right thing, listen to the experts, and either amend this bill or oppose it.

Roberta Wallace

Self

Tyler, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to you vote NO on HB44. This bill aims to criminalize and target pregnant people, and anyone who helps them receive care out of state. Abortion care is healthcare, and Texans needing abortion are already experiencing crisis. Deciding to abort is a serious medical choice, not an easy choice. Abortion is the right choice for some Texans and this law puts them in more danger and can cause more harm. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, reversing decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help. Please FIX SB31/HB44 before you vote for it. Take out any language that revives the 1925 law and could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, and helpers.

Ellen Tulloch

Self, operations specialist

Dallas, TX

This bill does not ameliorate the current threat to the liberty of people who can give birth and the physicians who support them. Amendments to the existing law like Sec. 170A.0021.D ("Nothing in Subsection (c) authorizes the performance of an abortion that is prohibited by law."), Sec. 171.063(c).6 ("ensure the physician does not provide an abortion-inducing drug for a pregnant woman whose pregnancy is more than 49 days of gestational age.") and the existing laws only serve to increase the severity of the threat to liberty by detailing a hard cut-off point in the pregnancy, after which the physician's reasonable medical judgment is insufficient. This will not reduce the number of abortions in the state of Texas, nor make the ones that do happen here safer.

Florrie Wallace

Retired executive search professional

Tyler, TX

Please vote against HB 44. Texan women are suffering and dying because they can't get safe abortions. Medical procedures should not be politicized

Moniqa Paullet

self, accessibility specialist

Dallas, TX

I oppose HB44 as the bill is not in line with American College of OBGYN policy. As written, this bill will not help medical providers save any additional lives in Texas, while it will also criminalize the support networks and families that help people travel out of state for abortion care. Abortion providers, abortion funds, and abortion advocacy organizations in Texas all oppose this bill. Yes, abortion legislation in Texas desperately needs reform, but this bill is not is. I urge you to listen to the experts and oppose this bill.

Amy Bushong

Self,

Austin, TX

I urge all representatives to vote no on this bill as it is currently written. Rather than clarifying the language around the state's already draconian abortion laws, HB 44 will further prosecute pregnant people and the physicians who serve them. This bill is an atrocious attempt to curtail reproductive health care and subjugate our bodies to the state. I once again urge all sane and rational members of this House to vote no on this bill. Thank you for your time.

Abigail Marquardt

Self

Houston, TX

Please do not criminalize abortion nonprofits in Texas. This is a very outdated law that will affect all the women I know. It is one thing to make abortion illegal in Texas. Women have the right to travel outside of the state to have an abortion. We have a right to do whatever we can with our bodies.

Rachel Lane

Myself and every woman in the state/ Ph.D. Graduate Research assistant

Southlake, TX

As I write this, I am on a plane home from London. I just presented my wildlife conservation research at a prestigious conference at Cambridge University. I am a PhD student researching human-wildlife relationships, and I've dedicated my life to making this planet a safer place to all the creatures who call it home. This life was made possible for me, because when I was 19 years old, 8 years ago now, I had an abortion. Every single day since you stripped that right away from me, I have thought about how different my life may have turned out had I not been able to access that healthcare at the time. Every day since you have stripped women's right to choose from them, I have thought about how many young scientists my field is losing, or how many passionate animal lovers are not able to join the fight, as they are now shackled by a child they did not want. You may have worded this as providing "clarity" to Texans, but we all know that is complete bullshit. Unfortunately, I'm much smarter than the women who fall for your plays on words. I could spend the last of my characters I have left explaining to you why what you have done is absolutely disgusting, but I know you will not listen. However, I know some of you have daughters. I know you have mothers, sisters, aunts, and female friends. If I have one ounce of faith left in humanity, I know those of you deciding this bill's fate have one woman in your life you would move hell or high water for if she needed this healthcare. When you vote on this, think of her sitting in a jail cell for taking her own reproductive choices into her own hands. Think of her sitting in a jail cell after suffering a miscarriage. If that thought is sickening to you, do not subject someone else to it.

Reagan Brendle

Self

New Braunfels, TX

HB 44 does not clarify exceptions, just rewords them, which doesn't help doctors proceed with the treatment plans that will save the lives of Texas women. This bill allows for the criminalization of women forced to seek life saving care out of state, and still doesn't provide any aid to survivors of rape or incest, or those women dealing with the heartbreak of babies with fatal anomalies.

Ray Gonzales

Self / Project Manager

Austin, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Katherine OSullivan, Ms

Self

Austin, TX

I do not support HB 44 and support pregnant women having access to all care necessary to keep themselves and their baby healthy

Allie Wallace

self

Tyler, TX

Dear Public Health Committee, I urge you to vote no on HB44. While this bill claims to protect pregnant people in medical emergencies, it contains dangerous language that could reactivate Texas' pre-Roe abortion law from 1925—a law that could be used to criminalize the pregnant person, as well as those who help them access care.

For decades, Texas has maintained that it does not prosecute people for seeking abortions. SB 31/HB 44 threatens to reverse that longstanding policy - intentionally or not. If passed without changes, this bill could be used to punish people for traveling out of state for abortion care and those who provide support like child care, lodging, or emotional help.

I ask you to fix SB 31/HB 44 before moving it forward.

Remove any language that revives the 1925 law or creates new pathways to target abortion seekers, practical support and abortion funds, or helpers. Texans deserve real solutions—not more fear, confusion, and criminalization.

Lauren Turek

self

San Antonio, TX

I am submitting public comment to urge the committee to oppose SB 31/HB 44 unless it is fixed. HB 44 claims to clarify when doctors can provide abortion care in medical emergencies—but as written, it has many harmful consequences. The bill includes language that may revive a 1925 law, potentially criminalizing pregnant people, abortion funds, and anyone who helps Texans get care out of state. This would reverse decades of bipartisan policy that protects people who have abortions from prosecution. The bill does little to expand access, but it does a lot to increase risk. We can't let lawmakers accidentally criminalize survivors, families, and helpers under the guise of "clarity." We need to make sure that women's health is protected first and foremost and that we are not creating a chilling effect where women cannot make life- and health-saving choices for themselves and their doctors cannot adequately care for their patients.

Graham Weatherford

self

Paris, TX

My mother would be DEAD if not for Organizing funding and care. as many other mothers, daughters, sisters would be.

Sandra Martin

Self; retired

Austin, TX

I'm a Texas resident urging you not to support HB 44 as written.

This bill includes dangerous language that could revive a 1925 law and lead to the criminalization of pregnant people and those who help them.

Texas has long said it won't prosecute people for having abortions—this bill threatens that.

Fix HB 44 by removing any language that could be used to target abortion seekers, funds, or helpers. Texans deserve support, not punishment.

Sarah Killingsworth

Self

Conroe, TX

This bill doesn't clarify exceptions, just rewords them, which still doesn't help doctors while pretending to take action. This still does not help survivors of rape or incest, fatal fetal diagnosis, or anyone who isn't "dead" enough. This bill also can also be used to prosecute abortion funds or helpers and even patients. Please oppose this bill and remove the 1925 ban, which Ken Paxton wants to use to prosecute people. This will be used to criminalize pregnant people and abortion aid. As someone, who has had miscarriages, from planned and wanted pregnancies, in the past, I do not feel safe trying to have more children in Texas.

Linda Neville
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please support this bill. Women's health needs to be honored.

Linda Neville
Self
Fort Worth, TX

Please remove section 14. Protect the health of women!!