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Support Mandatory Ultrasound Repeal Senate Bill 733 and House Bill 1524

Requiring ultrasound before abortion is intended to shame, judge, and make a woman change her mind

SB 733 and HB 1524 repeal the mandate that every woman undergoing an abortion have an ultrasound 24 hours prior to her procedure.

Politicians should not interfere in private medical decisions. Requiring an ultrasound before abortion is about political interference, not informed consent. Whatever our personal opinion, we must ensure that a woman's decisions about her pregnancy are made between her and her doctor, not politicians. Politicians should not be involved in a woman's personal medical decisions about her pregnancy.

Every woman should have medically accurate, unbiased information so she is able to make the best decision for her circumstances, without undue pressure. The mandate that every woman undergoing an abortion have an ultrasound 24 hours prior to her procedure is intended to shame, judge, and delay women's access to abortion. This bill is not about medicine; it's only purpose is to interfere in a woman's ability to make the best decision for herself and her family. Doctors should not be required to provide information meant to shame, judge, or make a woman change her mind.

Leading medical organizations oppose interfering with the doctor-patient relationship. The Medical Society of Virginia called the ultrasound mandate "unwarranted intrusion by the legislature in the patient-doctor relationship." The American Medical Association, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and the American Medical Women's Association also oppose politicians mandating diagnostic tests that may be unnecessary and add to healthcare costs. For instance, ACOG's guidelines for women's health oppose "intervention by legislators into the realm of medical decision-making or with the doctor-patient relationship, either in requiring or proscribing specific medical advice to pregnant women." A woman has a right to make her own personal, private decisions about abortion in consultation with her doctor, without politicians interfering.

Health care decisions should be between a woman and her doctor, not politicians.