



Senator Steve Huffman
5th District
Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee
January 29, 2020
Senate Bill 260

Chairman Burke, Ranking Member Antonio, and members of the Senate Health, Human Services and Medicaid Committee, thank you for giving me the opportunity today to present sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 260, legislation that would ban the practice of telemedicine for the purpose of prescribing abortion-inducing drugs.

Abortion-inducing drugs refer to a two-pill regimen of Mifepristone and Misoprostol, also known as RU-486. Mifepristone blocks progesterone receptors, the hormone necessary for a baby's growth, and Misoprostol causes a woman to expel the baby she is carrying.

Senate Bill 260 will ensure that physicians are physically present for the initial dosage of any abortion-inducing medication regimen that is prescribed to a patient, thus prohibiting physicians from prescribing abortion-inducing medications via webcam examination, audio, or any other telecommunications platform. There is a time and place for telemedicine, but in such a critical, vulnerable time, this is not one of them.

Legislation similar to Senate Bill 260 has been enacted in 19 other states, including Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. I believe this legislation will help keep patients seeking these procedures safe and ensure that they receive the best quality of care possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide sponsor testimony on Senate Bill 260, and I am happy to answer any questions you may have.