



Representative Sarah Fowler Arthur

Chairman Lipps, Vice-Chair Holmes, Ranking Member Liston, and members of the House Health Committee; Thank you for taking time to hear sponsor testimony on HB 378, a bill to ensure women have detailed information in case they wish to reverse their mifepristone abortion procedure midway through the process.

Pregnancy can be a very emotional time for a woman, not only because of all the new hormones in her system but also due to uncertainty about what the future holds. This is especially true for a woman facing an unplanned or unexpected pregnancy, who may be feeling pressure to make an immediate decision to terminate her child. She may be afraid of losing her job, losing her relationships, or unsure of how she will take care of a child. Unfortunately, lack of information can increase the tension and fear she is feeling until she feels like there are no alternatives but abortion. There have been many times when going through abortion-recovery counseling that a woman expresses the wish that she could have changed her mind, or stated that she DID change her mind after taking the first pill and did not know that she could try to save her pregnancy until it was too late.

I have personally spoken with women who had an abortion and after the initial, temporary relief, they have struggled with deep emotional pain, regret, loss, grief, and sometimes depression which impacted their quality of life and future relationships for many years. One of their deepest struggles was realizing that they may have chosen differently with more complete information and time to consider their options. HB 378 requires abortion reversal information to be provided 24 hours in advance of the procedure, which allows a woman more time to consider the gravity and implications of her choice and to consider her options, which is essential for informed consent.

In states that have passed abortion pill reversal legislation, women who change their mind and seek help to keep their pregnancy have expressed appreciation for the availability of the information they wanted and relief when finding help to reverse a decision they regretted. It is true that not every pregnancy can be saved but the woman's mental and emotional health are able to heal better when she has tools and options to empower her decision making.

HB 378 is intended to provide that information in advance so that each woman can make the most informed decision during what can be a trying and tumultuous time in her life.

Thank you for your consideration of this important legislation to ensure women have complete medical information when making decisions of life and death.