

Testimony of Parvaneh K. Nouri, MD/MPH Candidate  
Opposing Senate Bill 164  
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My name is Parvaneh Nouri and I am a 3rd year medical student and masters of public health student at Wright State University Boonshoft School of Medicine. As an undergraduate student, I studied Biological Sciences at Florida International University and Applied Health Sciences at the University of Waterloo, in Canada. I am here to provide testimony in opposition of Senate Bill 164, from the perspective of a physician in training.

I have conducted research on patient and physician attitudes towards expanded preconception genetic carrier screening. Through this research, I have learned a great deal regarding how the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) carefully reviews scientific research and continuously assesses patient attitudes and outcomes to create ethical, evidence-based professional guidelines that seek to provide the highest quality of care and ensure safe practices by its providers. Last year, ACOG released the following statement that specifically opposed this type of bill:

These 'reason bans' represent gross interference in the patient-physician relationship, creating a system in which patients and physicians are forced to withhold information or outright lie in order to ensure access to care. In some cases, this will come at a time when a woman's health, and even her life, is at stake, and when honest, empathetic health counseling is in order. Moreover, it threatens to hold physicians liable for providing women with the care that they need.

The doctor-patient relationship has been built on the timeless principles of trust, honesty, integrity, compassion, patient safety and advocacy. It is a relationship without which providing care and the art of healing would not exist as we have come to depend on it to. As physicians, we enter our training fully acknowledging and accepting of our foremost responsibility of advocating for our patients when their well-being is compromised - which is why we are here today.

While incredibly strong, the doctor-patient relationship is not immune to harmful interference by political agenda. I have read proposed SB 164 in its entirety. Bills like SB 164 criminalize physicians by instituting a grossly inappropriate intrusion of the doctor-patient relationship. It destroys the trust of our patients for which we have worked tirelessly over generations of physicians to cultivate and continuously strive to preserve. While this bill would criminalize an abortion provider, a small subset of practicing physicians, it would attack the binding fellowship of all physicians.

Our healthcare system and government involvement have the great potential of operating as a mutual partnership that facilitates positive patient outcomes and preserves our global leadership in the highest standard of care. Bills like SB 164, bills that undermine the core process of our profession, diminish our integrity and chip away at our global platform until it crumbles.

Thank you for your time and attention.