

I am in strong opposition to HB 598. Per the Guttmacher Institute researchers from the Center for Disease Control examined national abortion data from the three years surrounding the rulings and estimated that the number of illegal procedures in the country plummeted from around 130,000 to 17,000 between 1972 and 1974. The number of deaths associated with illegal abortion decreased from 39 to five in that same time period; women who died as a result of illegal abortions typically were black, were more than 12 weeks pregnant and had self-induced in their own community. The researchers concluded that abortion services need to be improved and available more widely, especially for women at high risk for seeking illegal abortions, because “any actions which impede their access to legal abortion may increase their risk of death.” Making abortion illegal would not stop abortion. It would stop safe abortion. Abortion has a significantly lower maternal death rate than pregnancy and live birth. Per Elizabeth Raymond and David A Grimes the pregnancy-associated mortality rate among women who delivered live neonates was 8.8 deaths per 100,000 live births. The mortality rate related to induced abortion was 0.6 deaths per 100,000 abortions. We can also get into the amount of children in foster care in this country that will increase, the amount of mentally ill children that will increase, the amount of homeless and hungry children that will increase and put a further strain on our resources. If your goal is to decrease abortions, increase public assistance, access to food, jobs, and affordable housing, pass universal health care so the maternal mortality rate decreases and women an uterus havers can access mental health care for perinatal mood disorders which affects 1 in 7 birth givers. What about rape and incest survivors? To expect a 13 year old to birth a child but say they're too young to make a decision about their gender identity is absurd.

My sister who is now 52 had an abortion in 1986. Had she needed my parents permission or had it not been legal, I assure you she would have found a way to have the procedure, and there is a very good chance she would be dead now, and my niece and nephew wouldn't be here. I love my sister more than anything except my daughter. I want my daughter to have the save right to privacy and bodily autonomy that my sister did and that all white cisgender men have in this country.

Please do not pass this bill.