

“Chair Lipps, Vice Chair Stewart, and members of the House Public Health Policy Committee,

My name is Alyssa Lambrecht, and I am a 3rd year medical student, and I am a writing in support of House Bill 89 “Regards intimate examination of anesthetized, unconscious patient”.

As a medical student, it is a privilege to be part of patient care. Our patients are trusting us as a member of their team to respect their health information. When patients are awake, I always ask permission to perform exams, even just listening with a stethoscope. All patients must have the right to accept or deny any portion of a medical exam. Patients undergoing anesthesia are putting trust in the attending surgeon that students and residents are not practicing outside their scope of practice and are treating the patients with respect.

By allowing unconsented pelvic exams, patient’s trust is being broken and their bodily autonomy is violated. Students do need to learn skills pertinent to the case being performed, but to perform unnecessary exams for the sole purpose of learning is violation of the informed consent process integral to medicine. I urge you to ban unconsented pelvic exams, so patients have full bodily autonomy while under anesthesia.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alyssa Lambrecht