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02/04/2025

Human Service Committee
HB 1373 – 02/05/2025

Dear Committee Chair Ruby,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any efforts aimed at criminalizing abortion. This is not just a matter of legal policy; it is a deeply personal issue that affects the lives and well-being of countless individuals. Abortion is a complex and nuanced topic, often intertwined with personal circumstances, health considerations, and individual beliefs.

Criminalizing abortion does not eliminate the need for it; instead, it pushes individuals into dangerous situations, compromising their health and autonomy. History has shown us that when abortion is banned or heavily restricted, it does not stop the practice but rather drives it underground, leading to unsafe procedures and devastating consequences.

Women and individuals seeking abortions deserve the right to make decisions about their own bodies and futures. This decision is often made after careful consideration of various factors, including health risks, financial stability, and personal circumstances. It is imperative that we trust individuals to make the best choices for themselves and their families.

Moreover, criminalizing abortion disproportionately affects marginalized communities, exacerbating existing inequalities. Access to safe and legal abortion services is a matter of social justice. We must prioritize compassion and understanding rather than punishment and stigma. I urge you to consider the broader implications of making abortion criminal. Instead of criminalization, we should focus on comprehensive reproductive health education, access to contraception, and support systems that empower individuals to make informed choices about their reproductive health.

Please keep religious views from clouding your judgement on women's health issues. Maintain our constitution's separation of church and state which you took an oath to uphold.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this critical issue. I hope you will stand in support of reproductive rights and the fundamental principle that individuals should have the autonomy to make decisions about their own bodies and health.

Sincerely,

Allyson H. Berner, MS