

Testimony in support of HB 1478 and HB 1477

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee,

It should be not be controversial that reproductive healthcare should be easily available to the men and women of this state. The decision to prevent pregnancy, or the decision to attempt IVF are deeply personal and should not be intruded on by our government.

Reproductive healthcare should include easy access to ALL types of contraception. Not only to prevent unintended pregnancies and thus limit the need for abortion, but also to treat a wide range of sometimes debilitating medical conditions (e.g. Polycystic Ovarian Disease, endometriosis). Access to condoms is not enough. Male condoms are an inexpensive contraceptive, but condoms don't begin to address the varied situations people find themselves in. Condoms can not treat PCOD. Condoms don't regulate painful cycles. Condoms don't treat endometriosis. Condoms don't treat bad acne. Men may refuse to wear condoms etc. Again, we need easy access to all types of contraception as determined by the patient and their healthcare provider, without government intrusion.

Reproductive healthcare should also include assisted reproductive techniques. The government should not prevent the only means by which some families can conceive a much-wanted child. And no, for many families, adoption or foster care are not substitutes for having their own biological child.

Sadly, these bills are needed because of the consequences of "fetal personhood" legislation that is again proposed in this session and other attacks on reproductive healthcare.

Sincerely,

Alex Deufel – District 40