

HB 1595  
House Human Services Committee  
February 5, 2025

Chair Ruby and members of the House Human Services Committee

My name is Dr Ana Tobiasz. I am an obstetrician/gynecologist and maternal fetal medicine physician practicing in the state since 2017. My specialty is in caring for high risk pregnancies. I strongly urge a DO PASS on HB 1595.

I have personally cared for many pregnant women who were given incorrect medical information from pregnancy resource centers in this state. This commonly includes incorrect ultrasound information. These centers offer free ultrasounds and provide the patient with a due date and gestational age. Unfortunately, the individuals performing these ultrasound exams are oftentimes volunteers with no formal training in performing obstetric ultrasound or are individuals who are inadequately trained and have no supervision. It is also well known that they oftentimes falsely inflate an individual's gestational age in order to dissuade them from having an abortion. There is no way for anyone outside of the facility to review their imaging for accuracy.

Patients who receive an incorrect gestational age and due date for their pregnancy are now subject to a multitude of concerns. Many of the decisions that are later made in the management of the pregnancy, center around having a correct gestational age and due date. This can result in poor outcomes if the due date is incorrect, such as incorrectly delaying delivery too long, which puts patients at risk for outcomes such as stillbirth and maternal complications such as preeclampsia. This can also lead to unnecessary interventions if the due date is incorrect, such as a diagnosis of fetal growth restriction. This diagnosis then commits a patient to increased ultrasound surveillance to reduce the risk of stillbirth. Oftentimes this degree of testing is unnecessarily done because of incorrect pregnancy dating that was established at one of our local pregnancy resource centers. This testing is costly and time consuming for patients.

I have also seen our local pregnancy resource centers miss serious diagnoses such as an ectopic pregnancy. This is an emergent diagnosis that requires appropriate evaluation and treatment to prevent maternal blood loss and death. Delaying establishing prenatal care can result in other adverse effects, such as delaying adjusting medications that may be teratogenic (can cause birth defects).

When individuals seek care at a pregnancy resource center, they are unaware of the lack of training the individuals have who volunteer or work there. They trust that the information being provided to them is factual and accurate. This oftentimes will result in patients delaying seeking appropriate obstetric care from an accredited medical facility or practice.

If the state insists on utilizing taxpayer dollars to fund these centers, there should be minimum standards and oversight from appropriately trained individuals as there is for every other medical practice and facility that is providing medical care or diagnostic testing. Pregnant individuals in this state deserve to receive evidenced based, high quality information from health care professionals who are appropriately trained and practicing within their scope.

I urge a DO PASS on HB 1595.

Dr Ana Tobiasz, MD

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