

Submitter: Kia Maslov

On Behalf Of:

Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care

Measure: HB2002

Testimony Regarding HB 2002,

Dear Chair Nosse, Vice Chairs Goodwin and Nelson, and Members of the Healthcare Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to share my deep concerns about HB 2002. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2002. I ask you to consider who would ultimately benefit from it. The very proposal of keeping a pregnancy secret, even further, an abortion, drives a wedge between the girl and her family, when she needs them most. It invites her to keep secret her already difficult and unfamiliar situation, from those who would be the most likely to support and help her through it. On the other hand, if a trafficker, an abuser, or some other ill-intending male is involved, this bill would give them protection and rob parents of the right to protect their child.

Even deeper, do we want to build a society where we keep secrets from those who love us, and who can help us through our tough times? Do we want one where we teach our children that the parent-child relationship is of no significance? That as children, they already know better than their parents, despite their lack of knowledge and experience? Why aren't we spending our taxpayer money on building up society, in particular families (who are the building block of society), by helping them to communicate better with one another and invest in those relationships?

Another concern is that many adult women have experienced trauma from abortion and numbers abound of those who experienced depression after having had an abortion. Why do we wish to subject our children to such things? What happens when an emergency arises from an abortion procedure or pill?

Finally, the premise of this bill implies that parents do not know what is best for their child's health or life, rather, it is the child who knows and should decide. That it is the child, upon reaching puberty who should be making their own life choices and therefore is an adult. If this is true, then anyone, upon reaching puberty, should be able to live as an adult, to drive, drink alcohol, get married, and any other such thing that adults are allowed. It would also mean that parents would no longer be legally responsible for their children. Child support payments could stop and children could be asked to move out. However, if we know that children are not developmentally ready for the above activities, why should we be allowing them to get an abortion without the guidance of their parents?

Please protect our young girls! Please oppose HB 2002!
Thank you so much for reading!

Kia Maslov