



Senate Health Care Committee

SB 844

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

Lois Anderson, Oregon Right to Life

Chair Patterson, Vice-Chair Hayden, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Right to Life to express our opposition to sections of Senate Bill 844 (SB 844). Hidden among numerous statutory changes, this bill includes provisions that would prevent malpractice from being reported to law enforcement.

While the bill primarily addresses reporting and licensure adjustments related to opioid overdoses, psilocybin, and kidney treatment, two sections take a concerning and unrelated turn.

Sections 6(3) and 8(5) explicitly block information from being shared with law enforcement when it pertains to the regulatory or enforcement functions of reproductive or gender-affirming health care services. This sets a dangerous and unacceptable precedent.

We frequently hear of bad actors in the medical field—cases where providers abuse their positions of trust and harm vulnerable patients. A striking example is Kermit Gosnell, who was exposed, convicted, and sentenced for horrific medical malpractice while operating a facility that flagrantly violated health and safety regulations. His Philadelphia clinic, described as a "house of horrors," subjected women to unsanitary conditions, untrained staff, and brutal procedures. Gosnell was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in the death of a patient and multiple counts of first-degree murder for killing infants born alive after failed abortion attempts.

Had reporting restrictions like those in SB 844 been in place, law enforcement may never have uncovered the full extent of these crimes.

Gosnell is far from an isolated case. Ulrich Klopfer, an abortion provider in Indiana, was found to have hoarded over 2,200 fetal remains in his home and garage while operating clinics cited for numerous health violations, including failure to report underage abortions. On an even broader scale, forced sterilization scandals, such as those linked to Javier Duarte's administration in Mexico, demonstrate the horrifying consequences when reproductive health care lacks accountability and oversight.

SB 844 prioritizes protecting providers over ensuring patient safety without justification. Shielding certain medical services from standard oversight undermines accountability and public trust. If a change of this magnitude is necessary, it should be openly debated, not buried within an otherwise, seemingly, unrelated bill.

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The Governor has pushed SB 844 forward without the support of her colleagues in the legislature and is hiding dangerous statutes from Oregon voters in the midst of the fine print. Governor Kotek has made clear her commitment to expanding Oregon's already limitless abortion policies—**this time at the expense and blatant disregard of patient safety.**

For the safety and well-being of women and all Oregonians, I strongly urge the removal of these provisions and a vote against SB 844 in its current form.

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