

House State Affairs Committee
Idaho State House of Representatives
Boise, Idaho 83720

Re: House Bill 64

February 1st, 2019

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Planned Parenthood strongly supports medical practices that are based on sound science and which improve the health and lives of people and communities. We develop our own standards of care using the most current medical evidence available, including guidance from trusted medical organizations such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States Preventive Services Task Force, and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. We proudly support research efforts aimed at improving the quality of care for Idahoans and people across our nation.

With this commitment in mind, last year we strongly opposed HB 638, which put in place unscientific reporting requirements for abortion. We continue to support high-quality research that aims to improve public health, but unfortunately we were unable to support this legislation because it does not promote such high-quality research and does nothing to ensure that all Idahoans receive high quality health care, backed by rigorous scientific study and analysis. Information on the safety and risks of any medical procedure should be collected through high-quality medical and social science research and peer-reviewed studies, not government forms. This bill's expansive and politically-motivated reporting requirements go beyond what is needed to improve public health.

House Bill 64 makes a number of amendments to HB 638. While these changes do somewhat improve last year's legislation, they do not address our overarching concerns about the reporting requirements put in place by HB 638. Many of the reporting requirements in HB 64 remain so vague that they would be difficult or impossible to comply with. House Bill 64 also continues to require reporting on a number of so-called "complications" that are actually expected side effects of abortion, creating additional confusion. And because of the bill's vague and confusing reporting requirements, providers would be left to guess at how to correctly comply and would likely over-report, substantially weakening the quality of data collected and further throwing into question its utility for improving public health.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this legislation. We look forward to working with you to ensure that all Idahoans receive high quality health care, backed by rigorous scientific study and analysis.

Sincerely,

Mistie Tolman

Idaho State Director
Planned Parenthood Votes Northwest and Hawaii