

SENATE STATE AFFAIRS

02/12/18

S1243

Good Morning

My name is Julie Lynde. I am the Policy Director for Family Policy Alliance of Idaho... formerly Cornerstone Family Council

It is a privilege to share with you our strong support for S1243 and to stand here and thank Right to Life of Idaho and Sen. Den Hartog for their diligence in providing hope and information to Idaho women.

At its core, S1243 is about saving a pregnant Idaho mother from a life of regret.

Every pregnancy is life-changing. When a mom whose pregnancy is a crisis chooses an abortion because her current circumstances are screaming at her and then has a change of heart...what kind of choice is left for her? Something is speaking to her through her fear, through her circumstances...and it is brave, fierce, and deserves attention.

You have already heard the details of the protocol that has safely reversed some chemical abortions. That means that if a pregnant mom revisits her choice, she has hope of possible success.

Why would someone oppose that?

The key to making important decisions about health is access to all relevant information. Women deserve this respect when making important decisions about their health---including abortion.

Idaho's "Women's Right To Know" statute is clear and compassionate. Strengthening this law by allowing her the knowledge of the potential to reverse a chemical abortion should she change her mind simply increases the amount of relevant, helpful information available. S1243 in no way impedes access to an abortion and places no additional burden on the abortion business.

This information empowers women.

Why oppose that?

Idaho vital statistics report that in 2016, chemical abortions accounted for more than 45% of abortions.

With so many women choosing to have an abortion by pill method outside a medical facility, without access to medical personnel, providing women access to information up front is even more critical.

S1243 is compassionate pro-woman legislation that discusses a safe protocol.

The protocol makes sense.

The former senator from Oklahoma, Dr. Tom Coburn is an OB-Gyn. He has delivered many babies in. Sen. Coburn was in Boise mid-February 2017. I mentioned to him the APR protocol, and Dr. Coburn had not heard of it, wanted more information because progesterone has been used to stop miscarriages this was of interest to him.

In follow up email communication, I sent him information on the protocol. On Feb. 18, 2017, I received an email response from him that said, "Love it. In essence, we are overwhelming progesterone receptors and neutralizing mifepristone. Thanks for the info."

While APR is not a guarantee, it IS an opportunity.

Living with regret can be a cruel burden. We can get over the job or the college or the trip. But regret centered around our children can be suffocating.

Second chances are rare. S1243 extends the hand of support for a woman wanting to take that second chance. And if the protocol is successful, a life is saved.

And, she will know that she did all she could to undo a choice she regrets. She may be saved from a cruel burden.

We urge your Yes vote on S1243

Thank you

Julie Lynde Policy Director Family Policy Alliance of Idaho