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February 12, 2018

To: Sen. Jeff Siddoway, Chairman
Sen. Marv Hagedorn, Vice Chairman
Members of the Senate State Affairs Committee

FROM: Julie Custer, Co-President
AAUW Idaho

Re: Testimony Opposed to S1243

Chairman Siddoway and Committee Members,

My name is Julie Custer and I'm co-president of the American Association of University Women of Idaho (AAUW-Idaho). I am speaking to you today on behalf of the over 900 AAUW members and supporters in Idaho who oppose Senate Bill 1243.

AAUW-Idaho supports the right of every woman to access safe, affordable, and comprehensive reproductive health care. AAUW-Idaho trusts that every woman has the ability to make her own informed choices regarding her reproductive life within the dictates of her own moral and religious beliefs.

Senate Bill 1243 would undermine these principles by requiring medical professionals to provide information to patients that is not scientifically proven.

Other states have gone down this path before and their experiences are illuminating. In 2015 Arizona passed a similar bill that required doctors to tell women that the effects of taking RU-486, a form of medication abortion, could be reversed. Under pressure from a lawsuit in federal District Court over the bill, the Arizona legislature repealed the law in 2016.

While the fiscal note to Senate Bill 1243 says "This legislation is expected to have a minimal fiscal impact to the Department of Health and Welfare" we would suggest that there could be a



significant fiscal impact on the state budget in the form of legal fees necessary to potentially defend this bill in court.

Additionally, in 2016 the Louisiana legislature passed a concurrent resolution requiring the Louisiana Department of Health to publish a study examining whether an abortion induced with drugs or chemicals can be reversed. The department convened a panel of experts in obstetrics, gynecology, and pharmacology to aid in the study. The panel unanimously agreed that there is insufficient evidence to suggest that there is a sound method to reverse a medication-induced abortion.

Instead of requiring our doctors to promote bad science, AAUW-Idaho advocates putting prevention first by supporting a comprehensive legislative package of preventive health and education measures designed to help reduce unintended pregnancy and to support reproductive health. We believe that access to complete reproductive health services enhances women's reproductive choices, which leads to improvements in women's health and economic security.

AAUW Idaho respectfully requests that you vote "No" on Senate Bill 1243. Thank you.