



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

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TESTIMONY FROM

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF DELAWARE

Before the House Health & Human Development Committee / March 17, 2021

In opposition to HB 40

**HB 40 is contrary to
the constitutional right to privacy of individuals
to make reproductive choices.**

This proposal calls for a physician to offer a procedure to a pregnant woman which may not be medically necessary. And frankly, its purpose is coercion. It is openly intended to influence a woman to maintain a pregnancy to term when that was not her decision.

As a side note, one wonders who is going to pay for this procedure, if the patient agrees to have it done. It is hard enough to get insurance companies to pay for medically necessary tests, but one that is being done because of the religious views of legislators? It is hard to believe. Or will the patient be expected to pay for it? That is patently absurd. Of course, if an ultrasound **is** medically indicated, why is it necessary to pass a law to require it?

Let's consider the scenario in the physician's office: the physician will be mandated to offer this procedure to the patient. For most patients, her physician is a person she trusts to offer reliable medical advice, trusts not to offer to conduct procedures intended to influence her to doubt a decision she has made, ideally in consultation with her partner. And let's face it: the patient will not know that the General Assembly has **required** the physician to make this offer, an offer the physician may not even want to make.

We need to ensure that women continue to have the right to make very private and personal decisions about their own bodies without being subjected to the moralistic judgments of someone else. How can the Legislature intrude this way – both into the practice of medicine and into the private decisions of individuals?

We urge you to defeat HB 40. Thank you.