

Submitter: Lenora Swift  
On Behalf Of: Vulnerable members of society  
Committee: House Committee On Behavioral Health and Health Care  
Measure: HB2002

Apologies for duplicate submission, I missed selecting my position for this bill, I am extremely opposed!

It is our duty to protect vulnerable members of society. This legislation will ensure that decisions made during temporary difficulties in life will follow a person throughout the remainder of their days on earth. Please vote no on HB 2002!

It is rare that an adult woman doesn't struggle with her decision to have an abortion. It may not happen right away, but at some point in her life she will likely reflect on the life of the person she aborted and wonder about the son or daughter that never took a breath of air. Those ponderings often end with feelings of regret. This bill is asking young girls to bear the consequences of adult decisions before she is aptly equipped to comprehend her circumstances. How can we not wonder why younger and younger girls are getting pregnant and seeking abortions? Making abortion accessible to little girls only makes her more vulnerable to those with nefarious intentions.

This bill also exposes postpartum women to a life of pain. It's easy to believe that a woman who is considering taking the life of her newborn is in an extreme emotional state and in great need of help. How many of us know a woman who has struggled with postpartum depression? It's not difficult to imagine that would be one of the largest contributing factors to neonaticide. Can you grasp how traumatized a woman would be after recovering from postpartum depression only to realize that she will never hold her baby again? If this bill passes, we are telling her that we don't care about her.

There are several other disturbing items in this bill, like leaving parents out of life altering decisions for their children. How audacious of those who think they should have more decision-making influence in the life of a child than that of the parents—it's utterly incomprehensible! And why are we shielding providers from accountability for the procedures and treatments done to change the gender of children? If it's such a great service, why do they need protection from the outcomes? If one believes this to be a noble cause, why do they need to hide who they are and what they're doing? I think it's an important question to have answered.

I implore you. VOTE NO on HB 2002!