

October 13, 2015, 2015



Honorable Kurt Heise, Chair
Michigan House Criminal Justice Committee
Anderson House Office Building
124 North Capitol Avenue
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Rep. Heise and Members of the House Criminal Justice Committee:

The American Association of University Women of Michigan, in keeping with its national Public Policy Program to support choice in the determination of one's reproductive life **opposes HB 4833 and 4834** which would ban a safe method of pregnancy termination.

- According to the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, dilation and evacuation abortion that these bills would criminalize is scientifically evidence-based and medically preferred because it results in the fewest complications for women compared to alternative procedures.
- Banning the type of abortion described in these bills will limit the ability of physicians to provide women with the medically appropriate and safest care they need, and will likely result in worsened outcomes and increased complications. Women will be put at risk and, in certain cases, it will lead to later-term abortion and more risk to the woman.
- Decisions about reproductive health care belong with patients and their doctors. The legislature should not interfere in this process.
- It is cruel to women needing this care to prohibit the best health care possible in the vain hope that you can outlaw certain abortion methods and therefore eventually outlaw all abortions. Whether legal or illegal, women will seek abortions. The question is, do you want your wife, your daughter, your sister or the women in your life who might need an abortion to have the safest method available? Whatever your view on the morality of abortion, can't we all agree that pregnant women should get the safest and best care? These bills would prevent that.

The AAUW's goal is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Since its founding in 1881, AAUW members have examined and taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day — educational, social, economic, and political. The AAUW is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that has more than 170,000 members and supporters, 1,000 local branches, and 800 college and university partners around the world.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Pollock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mary Pollock
Government Relations Coordinator