

House Criminal Justice Committee

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House Bills 4833 and 4834

Jamie Clark, 1st Year Medical Student

Born and raised in the state of Michigan, I have great pride in my state. I come from a long line of Michiganders who were agricultural and dairy farmers, business entrepreneurs and community leaders. I attended public schools and a state university and, as a future physician, I look forward to giving back to the state that has given me so much. However, with this newest bill seeking to further cut off access to abortion, I cannot help but fear that I will have to leave the state that I have grown to love.

As a future physician, I want to use my education in order to provide only the best medical care for my patients. Politicians who are trying to control women's bodies should not hinder this. The decisions that I make in my office should not be politically based, but evidence based. They should be based on studies that have been performed by the best scientists in their fields and have been read and critiqued by many.

As a pro-choice advocate, I acknowledge that deciding whether to put the mother or the unborn baby's life before the other is a sensitive decision. As such, this decision must be done on a case-by-case basis. We cannot use a one size fits all mentality when approaching abortion. In medical school we are taught to practice patient-based and evidence-based medicine and this bill would prevent us from doing this. I will not cause harm to my patients, as promised in the Hippocratic Oath. So, if this bill passes, I will have no choice but to move to another state where I am able use my best medical judgment when treating patients without fear of criminal punishment.

I think in a time where we are making great strides in providing medical care to all Americans, we should not be wasting time limiting access to care, which is what this bill is trying to do. Through limiting access to abortion, we are inserting politics into the doctor-patient relationship, allowing those that have not attended the 4 years of medical school and completed the many years of residency to make life-threatening decisions.