

October 13, 2015
House Criminal Justice Committee
House Bills 4833 and 4834
Shannon Paquette, First-Year Medical Student

As a medical student at Wayne State University School of Medicine, I would like to voice my strong opposition of House Bills 4833 and 4834. These bills impede upon the ability of physicians to provide patients with the safest means of care, which is a breach of our Hippocratic Oath. The methods used by physicians to perform medical procedures are not arbitrarily determined; they are derived from evidence-based practice with patient safety being of the utmost priority. By forcing physicians to use alternative methods to terminate second-term pregnancies, you will be putting the health and future fertility of Michigan women at risk.

Not only would the passing of these bills prevent medical doctors from providing their patients with the safest means of care, it also an extreme intrusion upon the patient-physician relationship. This bill will prevent physicians from using their training and medical knowledge to determine what is best for their patients and provide them with an expected standard of care.

As a medical student interested in Obstetrics and Gynecology, House Bills 4833 and 4834 will directly affect my future work and my patients. These bills completely oppose the principles I am being trained to uphold regarding best practice. This leaves me severely concerned about the care that I will be able to provide to my future patients in Michigan. I urge you to consider the harm this bill will cause within the medical community and I highly encourage you to reject it. Thank you for taking the time consider my concerns as a future physician.

Sincerely,

Shannon Paquette

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