



22 January 2025

Chairwoman Rachel Rodriguez-Williams
House Labor Committee
Capitol Extension, Room E003
Cheyenne, Wyoming

Dear Chairwoman and Committee Members:

My name is Katie Knutter, and I am the Executive Director of Wellspring Health Access, which is an organization that operates the state's only procedural and medication abortion facility. I want to thank you for the opportunity to address the committee regarding HB 64 today.

We call this restriction the Medication Abortion Ultrasound Requirement. This bill would require people who are seeking medication abortion services to have an ultrasound 48 hours before they can receive the medication. HB 64 tells women and their doctors what medical procedures they must receive. It usurps the doctor-patient relationship. By mandating a 48-hour waiting period, people choosing medication abortion will face delays in care; 1. By pushing people past 11.0 weeks will require them to opt for a procedural abortion, removing medication abortion as an option; 2. People will have to navigate the 48-hour waiting period, requiring them to make two trips to the clinic.

This bill is discriminatory – targeting women who want to access medication abortion – making it more difficult for them to navigate simple and safe medical care. This creates an additional burden for women in rural areas who already must travel to seek health care. Wyoming is a state with a large rural population who must already travel long distances to seek medical care. Because medication abortion is a time-sensitive process, it could force a patient into having a procedural abortion instead. According to ACOG, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, “Most abortion care globally is provided without ultrasound examination.” It should be left up to the evaluating physician to decide if an ultrasound is necessary on a case-by-case basis according to medical evidence.

Furthermore, the requirement of a waiting period after a forced ultrasound demeans women's decision-making capacity. Women are capable of making their own medical decisions without being forced by the state to wait longer to access medical services. The Wyoming Constitution supports this right and capability in Article 1, Section 38 which states that all



citizens have the right to make their own medical decisions. This section was further upheld by a district court judge last year who found that this section applied to abortion services.

Both restrictions of HB 64, a required ultrasound and a waiting period, are medically unnecessary. It exists merely as a tool to make it more difficult for women to access medication abortion. This method has become increasingly popular over the last few years. The Guttmacher Institute (which tracks related to reproductive health care) found that 63% of abortion in the United States in 2023 were via medication abortion. This was increase from 53% in 2020. Clearly, medication abortion is meeting the needs of many people seeking abortion services.

This is clear government overreach - attempting to regulate a person's medical decisions. Legislators should not play doctor or instruct doctors in how to provide medical care for their patients. People in Wyoming value their liberty, independence, and freedom to choose what is best for their own families. This includes their ability to make their own medical decisions.

Sincerely,

Katie Knutter

Executive Director