



## Why Oppose HB 42, HB 64, and HB 159

The Wyoming Constitution guarantees the rights of citizens to make their own decisions about their health care without government interference. These bills are an unconstitutional attempt to interfere with the rights of Wyoming women and their families to access health care.

### HB 42 – TRAP – Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers

- HB 42 is targeted only at abortion providing facilities; thus, it is discriminatory. This type of bill is specifically designed to put clinics out of business.
- This bill targets our clinic – Wellspring Health Access – the only clinic in Wyoming to provide both procedural and medication abortion. It would compel us to make unnecessary and costly structural changes to the clinic, which is not medically indicated for patient care.
- It would force clinics and physicians to follow unnecessary requirements which are required in hospital settings. It is an attempt to close clinics by requiring them to meet unnecessary facility requirements. The U.S. Supreme Court has found these types of regulations to be unconstitutional in *Whole Women's Health v. Hellerstedt*.
- Hospital admitting privileges are not necessary for quality continuity of care if a hospital transfer is required. The statutory requirement of hospital privileges is nothing but a ploy to deny physicians who provide abortion care that ability to do so.
- Due to the low complication rate of abortion, it is often difficult for physicians to obtain admitting privileges, as the number of cases are few and far between.



## **HB 64 – Ultrasound and Waiting Period Requirement**

- 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.
- According to ACOG, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, “Most abortion care globally is provided without ultrasound examination.”
- HB 64 is an attempt to create a 48-hour waiting period between the time a woman would have an ultrasound and when she can proceed with her abortion. This creates an additional burden for women in rural areas who already must travel to seek health care. Because medication abortion is a time-sensitive process, it could force a patient into having a procedural abortion instead.
- Both restrictions, a required ultrasound and a waiting period, are medically unnecessary. 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.

## **HB 159 – Abortion Waste-Water Restriction**

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- Like HB 64, this HB 159 is designed to make it harder for people to access medication abortion. It would ban patients from accessing medication abortion through telehealth.
- There is no legitimate scientific evidence that medications used for medication abortion present any risk of pollution of waste-water.
- HB 159 was created by a national anti-abortion group as a strategy to make it harder for people to access medication abortion. HB 159 is not intended to stop pollution or protect the water supply. It is merely designed to make it harder for people to be able to make their reproductive health choices.
- HB 159 is discriminatory – targeting women who want to access medication abortion – making it more difficult for them to navigate simple and safe medical care.
- HB 159 would require patients to make at least two visits to the clinic. This would prevent Wyomingites from using telemedicine for abortion services.
- Requiring patients to make those visits can force people to put off seeking care. This can push people past the 11.0 weeks when they are able to have a medication abortion. They would then be forced to choose procedural abortion which was not their first choice.
- Medication abortion has been offered safely in this country since 2000 when the FDA approved it. There have been no peer-reviewed studies in the 25 years since then providing any link between any negative environmental findings regarding medication abortion.
- HB 159 is an attempt to further stigmatize people having abortions and the clinics that provide them. It is an example of governmental overreach on a grand scale by interfering with the physician-patient relationship.