



Why Oppose HB 117

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

HB 117—24-Hour Waiting Period

- HB 117 would create a 24-hour waiting period before a person could receive abortion care. This bill would require that physicians provide certain information to patients at least 24 hours before they could be seen for abortion care.
- This bill claims that people are unable to make appropriate decisions about their healthcare unless they are forced to wait at least 24 hours. No other medical procedure requires a state-mandated waiting period.
- This bill is a direct violation of the Wyoming State Constitution as found by the Wyoming Supreme Court when it affirmed that people have the right to make their own decisions about their healthcare without governmental interference. Forcing someone to wait 24 hours to access healthcare is a direct interference.
- A review of 34 studies on mandatory waiting periods from 2022 found that waiting periods create burdens on people seeking abortions who had already decided that they wanted to terminate the pregnancy. The studies found that waiting periods simply increased existing delays in abortion care such as limited availability of appointments, the need to travel long distances to seek care, difficulty managing work and childcare schedules, weather conditions, and funding needs. Mandatory waiting periods also disproportionately affected young people, people of color, people living in poverty, and people in rural areas. (de Londras F, Cleeve A, Rodriguez MI, Farrell A, Furgalska M, Lavelanet A. The impact of

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mandatory waiting periods on abortion-related outcomes: a synthesis of legal and health evidence. BMC Public Health. 2022 Jun 21;22(1):1232. doi: 10.1186/s12889-022-13620-z. PMID: 35725439; PMCID: PMC9210763.)

- Mandatory waiting periods can cause patients to have to choose a different type of procedure or cause them to be unable to be seen for abortion services at all.
- Mandatory waiting periods infantilize pregnant people by demeaning and discounting their ability to make their own decisions for themselves and their families.