



## Why Oppose HB 126

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 126—Heartbeat Abortion Ban**

- HB 126 bans abortion after a heartbeat can be detected in a fetus. This can happen as early as six weeks. It would require a physician to determine if a heartbeat was present before performing an abortion.
- This will effectively be an abortion ban beginning at six weeks from the patient's last menstrual period. Many people do not even know they are pregnant this early in the pregnancy. Research from the Guttmacher Institute found that even people who learned of their pregnancy this early, they were often unable to access abortion care until later in their pregnancy. Limited access to reproductive healthcare, poverty, youth, distance to clinics, and lack of reliable information about pregnancy and abortion care can lead people to be forced to delay accessing abortion care.
- While the Wyoming legislature is allowed under the recent Supreme Court decision to make laws that are necessary to safeguard people, this bill would do no such thing. Abortion bans hurt pregnant people by denying them necessary health care as well as violating their bodily autonomy.
- Across the U.S. over 60% of abortions take place at or after six weeks. This means that this law would effectively ban the majority of abortions.

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- Similar laws have been passed in states across the country, like Florida and Georgia. These laws have lead to deaths when people have been denied necessary healthcare because physicians were afraid of being charged under Georgia’s punitive 6-week ban.
- Wyoming already has increasingly low access to reproductive and maternal healthcare. The legislature should focus on ways to increase access to necessary healthcare rather than banning access to abortion care.