



Senate Bill 95 (Schultheis, Lundberg) imposes a delay in the right of a woman to receive an abortion by requiring physicians to disclose certain information, to perform or refer out certain medical procedures, and to document a woman's receipt of such information and/or procedures at least 24 hours before an abortion is performed. Under the proposed bill, physicians performing an abortion, or in some instances qualified people assisting the physician, must:

1. Notify women seeking abortions, verbally and in person, that fetal ultrasound and fetal auscultation services are available for the woman to view the fetus and hear the heartbeat of the fetus prior to the abortion being performed;
2. Provide, upon request of the woman seeking an abortion, either a real-time ultrasound image or auscultation of the fetal heart at the request of the woman or a list of health care providers, facilities, and clinics where free ultrasounds are available;
3. Receive the woman's signature certifying receipt of above information and documenting her decision to either receive or decline ultrasound imaging and auscultation services.

Failure to comply with this bill would result in civil and criminal penalties.

BILL SUMMARY

- 24 hours before an abortion is performed, a physician must: disclose certain information to a woman, perform or refer out an ultrasound, and document the woman's receipt of such information and/or procedures.
- Failure to comply with the statute could result in civil and criminal penalties.

FACTS ABOUT SB 95

- ***SB 95 would allow the government to intrude in the relationship between a woman and her physician.*** Informed consent is an already established practice standard between a physician and his or her patient.
- ***Doctors, not politicians, should decide what information and care is best for their patients.*** Trying to dictate what medical doctors say to their patients takes medicine and medical advice away from health care professionals.
- ***This legislation is an unnecessary mandate that will result in more women receiving less health care.*** A mandatory waiting period would not prevent abortion. It would force women seeking abortion to arrange for a second day off work, a second day of child care and, in the case of women who must travel for health care, overnight accommodations.
- ***The mandatory waiting period could increase the likelihood of complications.*** In some locations where doctors are available only one day a week, the mandatory waiting period could force the woman to wait more than 24 hours before receiving an abortion. This would affect the women living in the 78% of Colorado counties that have no abortion provider.
- ***SB 95 does nothing to reduce the need for abortion.*** It fails to give Colorado women and their families the education and access to reproductive health services they need to make healthy, informed decisions about when to have a family and to how minimize the risk of unintended pregnancy.