



**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.

Three points to remember when speaking to the media about controversial issues like abortion:

- ✓ Speak from the heart – Couch your comments in terms and values that represent you and are consistent with your perspective on the issue.
- ✓ Start with a recognition of respect for the opposing side, then turn to your message. For example:
  - I recognize this bill touches on a complex issue, but...
  - I appreciate the strong emotions that the question of abortion raises, but...
  - I respect the beliefs of those who approach this issue from a different perspective. However...
- ✓ Turn the issue to what can be done to prevent the need for abortion while respecting individual privacy in personal health care decisions. For example:
  - Focus on preventive steps, preventive health care policies, etc.
  - Emphasize a commitment to individual privacy when making health care decisions.

## TALKING POINTS ABOUT SB 95

- SB 95 is a solution looking for a problem: Women seeking abortion already can ask about these services. Instead of protecting a woman's constitutionally protected right to receive an abortion, this bill puts government where it doesn't belong – between a patient and her physician.
- This bill does nothing to reduce the need for abortion, which I believe we all can agree stems largely from unintended pregnancy. In fact, SB 95 fails to ensure Colorado women and their families maintain access to the information and reproductive health services they need to make healthy, responsible decisions about when to have a family and to minimize the risk of unintended pregnancy, nor does it expand support for women who choose to carry their pregnancies to term but may need more community support to provide a healthy environment for their children.
- Rather than introducing irresponsible legislation that directly contradicts the will of Coloradans, elected officials and policymakers should develop sound public policy strategies to reduce the need for abortion -- not criminalize the constitutionally protected right to choose a safe, legal medical procedure.

- This measure circumvents the will of the people: In 2000, Colorado voters soundly defeated a ballot measure that would have imposed a mandatory delay for women seeking abortion by a 60%-40% margin. What anti-choice proponents could not accomplish at the ballot box, they seek to impose through irresponsible legislation that directly contradicts Coloradans' preference to keep government out of personal, private health care decisions.
- This bill lays the foundation for the government – not physicians and their patients – to decide what type of medical care is necessary or desired.
- SB 95 rejects the values of freedom from government intrusion and right to privacy in personal health care decisions that Coloradans embrace. If this measure becomes law, the State of Colorado would have the authority to review women's medical records to ensure compliance with this statute.
- Instead of sponsoring legislation that interjects government into the personal, private relationship between a patient and her doctor, Coloradans want their elected representatives to pursue common-sense solutions that strengthen our communities by reducing unintended pregnancies and the need for abortion. For example, we would be better served by [choose any/all that fit with individual beliefs]:
  - Ensuring responsible and efficient implementation of HB 1292, which requires local school boards to establish curricula that demonstrate sex-ed courses include age-appropriate, abstinence-based, comprehensive sex education that is medically and scientifically accurate. This will empower our youth to make healthy decisions when they face the inevitable choice of whether to engage in sexual activity.
  - Ensuring women and their families have access to affordable contraception options and insurance for the full range of reproductive health services.
  - Supporting and respecting whatever choices women make in consultation with their families and doctors and in keeping with their own religious and moral beliefs.
  - Understanding that being pro-choice is not just about abortion; it's about choices: It's about providing the education, access, and support for women and their families to choose when to have children, to choose how many children to have, to choose which contraceptive to use, to choose to give a child up for adoption, to choose to adopt a child, and to choose how to reclaim your sense of control over your own body after surviving sexual violence.
  - Expanding access to medically accurate prenatal and post-delivery care.
  - Increasing support for biological parents who choose to give their children up for adoption and for social services, child-placement, and adoption-support agencies.
  - Enhancing resources and community support when women from disadvantaged communities, like teens, unwed mothers, and low-income women, choose to keep their babies.