

WE DARE DEFEND OUR RIGHT TO LIFE

The Women's Health and Safety Act

House Bill 57, sponsored by Rep. Mary Sue McClurkin (R-Indian Springs)

Until the U.S. Supreme Court changes its mind, or until the U.S. Constitution is amended, abortions will still unfortunately be legal in this country and, by extension, in Alabama. Should a woman choose to have an abortion, the abortion should be performed in the safest pre- and post-operative environments available. Statistics show that abortion centers, on average, operate at an alarming level of non-compliance, which puts abortion patients at unreasonable risk. Consequently, Alabama needs a comprehensive set of standards for medical care performed at abortion or reproductive health centers operating in Alabama. **The Women's Health and Safety Act** not only contains reasonable and medically appropriate health and safety standards for these facilities, but also provides effective enforcement mechanisms and disincentives for facilities that are unable or unwilling to meet these requirements.

Summary:

- Under this bill, only a physician may perform an abortion. Additionally, at all times during procedures in an abortion or reproductive health center, nursing care shall be under the supervision of a registered professional nurse currently licensed in Alabama.
- Abortion or reproductive health centers located in Alabama must render patient care in accordance with all applicable federal, state, and local professional standards of practice. Similarly, abortion or reproductive health centers must comply with applicable federal and state physical environment, safety, and building standards required by state or federal law or rule.
- Any minor child under the age of 16 seeking an abortion from an abortion or reproductive health care facility shall be asked by the physician performing the abortion to state the name and age of the individual who is believed to be the father of the unborn child. The minor child may refuse to provide such information. If the reported age of the father is two or more years greater than the age of the minor child, the facility shall report the names of the pregnant minor child and the father to local law enforcement, the county department of human resources, and, in some cases, the Alabama Department of Human Resources.
- Penalties for non-compliance include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - Class C Felony: non-physicians who perform or attempt to perform an abortion, including the prescription of an abortion-inducing drug.
 - Class C Felony: any person who prescribes, dispenses, or administers an abortion-inducing drug without first examining the patient.
 - Class C Felony: a facility administrator who knowingly and willfully permits the facility to be operated in violation of this act.
 - Class A Misdemeanor: a facility administrator who allows abortion-inducing drugs to be prescribed, dispensed, or administered with an examination.
 - Adverse Professional Licensure Action: when any physician or other associated medical professional fails to comply with this act, or when any abortion or reproductive health center is found to have provided an abortion in a manner violating this act.

