



South Dakota Women Protect Your Health and Your Family Rights!

These South Dakota Bills disrespect and undermine women's intelligence, privacy and ability to make decisions about health care, personal and family matters!

WHY ARE LEGISLATORS IN OUR DOCTOR'S OFFICE?

REVIEW OF HOUSE BILLS NOW UNDER WAY:

HOUSE BILL 1184 – allows health care providers and institutions to opt out of providing health care for religious or ethical reasons. We must ensure that all people are protected in the observation of their religious faith and that all people can get the health care they need. This bill however only protects doctors who as a matter of conscience want to prevent women from obtaining birth control, but does not protect women who as a matter of conscience seek birth control to ensure their health and the long term health and well being of their families.

HOUSE BILL 1217 – Abstinence Only. Most agree that abstinence is the method for preventing the spread of Sexually Transmitted Infection and unintended pregnancies. In the real world though we know that people aren't always abstinent. This bill would outlaw teaching of accurate, truthful information to help people prevent pregnancy and the spread of HIV. Comprehensive sex education has been proven to reduce unintended pregnancies and abortion - why do our legislators want to have more of these?

SJR 2 – Amend SD's constitution declaring that the "policy of SD is to protect the life of the unborn child from conception until birth," This bill should be known as the pro pregnancy discrimination act. This bill would give the state the right to decide for a pregnant woman whether

or not she should have a c-section, an episiotomy, and provide a basis for prosecuting pregnant women who suffered miscarriages and stillbirths as child abusers or murderers if they engaged in work, or took medications believed to affect pregnancy outcome

HOUSE BILL 1215 – Abortion Ban. This bill is a complete ban on abortion except to save the life of the mother. It would also force a woman who was pregnant as a result of rape and incest to continue to term. Many people oppose abortion – but most value the lives of women enough to recognize the need for these exceptions.

HOUSE BILL 1216 – Mental Health Screening on Informed Consent. More than half of all women who have abortions are already mothers. Most of the others will someday become mothers. This bill views pregnant women as mentally deficient and singles them out for special and costly mental evaluations when other adults are not.

HOUSE BILL 1202 – Adds Chlamydia to the list of sexually transmitted diseases and makes it a misdemeanor to expose another to Chlamydia, with possible incarceration. Is this the answer to reducing the number of cases of Chlamydia in SD? Or is the reasonable alternative prevention education and access to health care.

THE SOUTH DAKOTA TASK FORCE REPORT ON ABORTION IS BEING USED AS A BASIS FOR THE BILLS THAT ARE CURRENTLY BEFORE THE SOUTH DAKOTA STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION!

It is important to understand that the report is defining the Bills that affect more than abortion issues, passage of many bills will take away some of our fundamental rights as women and ultimately affect our lives economically, financially, medically, legally...in virtually every way.

Women's basic rights to access accurate information and to make informed, free choices about every area of our lives, and those of our children are endangered. **Women's Rights are Human Rights!**

Are you aware that the South Dakota Task Force Report on Abortion...

1. ...condones incest! Dr. Donald Oliver, Rapid City, South Dakota states, "Ninety-seven percent of the time" children born as a result of incest "are normal," and "...just as two bad genes might pair up and lead to an unfortunate outcome, two good genes can pair up, and the infant of this incestuous relationship, may become the brightest person in the family-sometimes in the genius range of intellect."

2. ...proposes to define sexual abstinence and "a statement that abstinence education in South Dakota is to exclude contraceptive-based sexuality education." However, there are no recommendations to reduce unintended pregnancies. Abstinence only approaches have proven to fail and ignore the complexity of the issue, which includes the reality of incest, rape and human development. South Dakota lawmakers are expecting people to abstain from sexual relations until they are willing to have children, including married people.

3. The Task Force concludes that all abortions should be banned. Even witnesses with extraordinary credentials, the support of national medical groups and who have been accepted as expert witnesses in federal court cases were disregarded. This legislative task force did not engage in objective investigation but rather bias at the expense of this state's taxpayers. The lack of consideration of all opinions practiced by this Task Force endangered the rights and freedom of all South Dakotans.

The South Dakota Task Force Report on abortion can be accessed on line at:
<http://www.dakotavoices.com/Docs/South%20Dakota%20Abortion%20Task%20Force%20Report.pdf>

or

www.feministing.com/SD_abortion_taskforce_report.pdf

There are many real and pressing problems that face pregnant women and families in the state of South Dakota. Many families work in jobs where they have no paid maternity leave and some pregnant women continue to face employment discrimination when they become pregnant.

Health issues including battering, breast cancer, cervical cancer and heart disease and poverty receive little attention. Yet year after year the only women's

health related legislation discussed is attempts to limit women's access to abortion and contraceptive services.

Isn't it time our legislature turned its attention to the needs of women and families struggling with pressing issues like their health care, living wages, affordable housing, paid maternity leave and home heating bills?

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS - TELL THEM YOU ARE TIRED OF LETTING THE DIVISIVE ABORTION DEBATE TAKE OUR ATTENTION AWAY FROM FAMILIES.

Contact your legislator at <http://legis.state.sd.us/>

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