

Oppose HB 1181 – No One Should be Able to Veto Another Person’s Decision About Whether to Have a Child

Bill Summary: HB 1181 would give anyone who claims paternity the power to seek a court injunction prohibiting a pregnant person from having an abortion. The bill would also require the pregnant person to have a DNA test at the same testing facility as the person seeking the injunction. If the pregnant person does not attend the hearing on the injunction request, the injunction shall be granted. In addition, in cases of incest, the pregnant person would bear the cost of DNA testing to show that the incest occurred. Finally, the bill would place a pregnant person who has an abortion in violation of a court injunction in jeopardy of being held in civil or criminal contempt.

This legislation gives an abortion patient’s current or former partner – or anyone claiming paternity – the power to veto the pregnant person’s decision and force them to have a child. This legislation would fundamentally alter the right to abortion in New Hampshire, effectively forcing someone to remain pregnant against their will. No one should be able to make such an important decision for someone else.

This legislation means that survivors of abusive relationships could have their abortion blocked by their abuser. Under this legislation, a survivor of sexual assault could have their abortion blocked by their rapist. For victims of incest, this bill would require the victim to cover the costs of DNA testing to prove their claim. Let’s be clear – this bill is dangerous.

This legislation could criminalize people for seeking a constitutionally protected medical procedure. Under New Hampshire law, pregnant people have the right to seek an abortion prior to 24 weeks. Yet, if passed, this bill would place pregnant people at risk of criminal sanction for seeking a safe and legal medical procedure. Lawmakers should reject this blatant attempt to further restrict the right to abortion in New Hampshire.

This legislation places pregnant people at greater risk of harm. Even if a pregnant person is eventually allowed to have an abortion, this bill would force a patient to delay their abortion further into their pregnancy, potentially at risk to the patient’s health. While we may not all agree about abortion, we should all agree at the end of the day that the only person who should make the decision is the person who is pregnant – no one else.

This bill is yet one more attempt to make abortion as difficult to access as possible. With *Roe* under threat, this bill is yet another reminder that the fundamental right to abortion is under real threat in New Hampshire. As of January 1, 2022, our lawmakers have placed numerous hurdles in front of people seeking abortion care, including parental notice, limitation on public funding, a ban on abortion at 24 weeks or later, and a mandatory ultrasound requirement. Now is the time for the legislature to draw a line in the sand and make clear that pregnant people should be able to seek abortion care without shame, stigma, or unnecessary obstacles.

Oppose HB 1181 – Don’t force people to carry a pregnancy against their will.