

**Testimony of Corey Swertfager, in Opposition to
House Bill 2253
House Federal and State Affairs Committee, February 20, 2013**

Thank you to the Chair and the members of the House Federal and State Affairs committee for the opportunity to be a part of the democratic process.

A well-known expression is one can't see the forest for the trees. This bill offers another example of not seeing the women for the uterus. Why is it that a part of a woman is perceived to be greater than the whole woman? A woman is a whole, separate, unique, living human being. Some of what I find troubling in this bill:

- Abortion is a medical procedure and should not be singled out from other medical expenses for taxation. Economic needs of women are ignored.
- On page 4, section 10 (b) (lines 37-38) it states: "Bodily function' means physical functions only. The term 'bodily function' does not include mental or emotional functions." Mental and emotional functions occur within and affect the physical body, and thus should not be dismissed.
- On page 9, section 11 (k) (lines 25-28) it states: "Upon a first conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a class A nonperson misdemeanor. Upon a second or subsequent conviction of a violation of this section, a person shall be guilty of a severity level 10, nonperson felony." This effectively criminalizes a doctor for doing her/his job.
- On page 9, section 12 (a) (lines 34-36) it states: "At least 24 hours before the abortion the physician who is to perform the abortion or the referring physician has informed the woman in writing..." This unnecessary delay may lead to complications for the patient, both medically and financially.
- On page 10, section 12 (b)(1) (line 40) uses the term "prior to invasion of the uterus." Please note that the abortion riders of this bill are themselves invasion of a woman's uterus.
- On page 14 (line 17), why is "abortion services" struck out from the list of assistance suggestions?
- On page 22 (lines 6-9) it states: "no abortion shall be performed, except in the event of a medical emergency, in any medical facility, hospital or clinic owned, leased or operated by the authority." This causes undue hardship for those that have no such facility nearby other than one under control of the authority.
- The bill contains numerous instances of pointing out the unlawfulness of being coerced into undergoing an abortion. Should it not also point out that it is unlawful to force a woman to carry a pregnancy to term?

Thank you for your time.

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