



April 25, 2019

The Honorable Kevin Stitt
Oklahoma Governor
2300 N. Lincoln, Room 212 State Capitol Building
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Governor Stitt,

My name is Julie Burkhart. I am the Founder and CEO of Trust Women. I am writing today to ask you to veto SB 614. Trust Women owns and operates health care clinics in Oklahoma City, OK; Wichita, KS; and Seattle, WA. The clinics provide various health care services including abortion care. I want to highlight several legal problems with SB 614.

Section 3, subsection B. 1. deals with the notice required by the bill which includes the following:

If you change your mind and wish to try to continue the pregnancy, you can get immediate help by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal 24-hour Hotline at 877-558-0333 or going to website <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/>. Additional information is available on the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision's website, www.awomansright.org, which provides informed consent materials under the Woman's Right-to-Know Act, including information about the development of the unborn child and video of ultrasound images of the unborn child at various stages of development.

We question if the State of Oklahoma has engaged in a fact-finding process that would separate the reliable from the unreliable sources of information. Upon what criteria will the State of Oklahoma determine whether medical advice is reliable concerning the reversals of medical abortions? If sources of information are abortion providers, will they be included as "relevant telephone and internet resources"? Will organizations that oppose abortion rights and are known to disseminate misinformation about abortion be recognized as reliable information sources?

The link included in subsection B is maintained by an organization that opposes abortion rights. We question the quality of the information that a patient will receive from these sources as they have not been regulated or maintained by the State of Oklahoma. Should the quality of medical information received midway through a medication abortion be less than that provided by the physician who counsels the patient before administering Mifepristone?

The ambiguities inherent in the notice provision of subsection (b) are likely to cause confusion among patients, providers and regulators. In a worst-case scenario, these ambiguities may cause injury by directing patients to unreliable information sources. Trust Women fully supports the right of women to make informed decisions about all phases of abortion care, but we oppose legislation that leaves open the possibility of cloaking an unqualified source of medical information with the imprimatur of legitimacy because the source is listed in an official notice. SB 614 is an open invitation to unqualified medical charlatans to designate themselves as "relevant" sources of abortion care information without an adequate basis to do so. The notice provision of SB 614 has the possibility of making abortion care less safe by allowing unfettered misinformation from unqualified telephone or web sources to masquerade as sound medical advice.

Trust Women Foundation

Post Office Box 3222 | Wichita, Kansas 67201 | 316.425.3215 | www.trustwomen.org



This ambiguous notice requirement also forces medical professionals to potentially be involved with the dissemination of misinformation. Section 1, subsection (C) (3) requires a physician to tell patients, at least 72 hours before a medication abortion that uses mifepristone,

- a. That it may be possible to reverse the intended effects of a medication abortion that uses mifepristone if the woman changes her mind, but that time is of the essence, and
- b. Of information on reversing the effects of a medication abortion that uses mifepristone, which is available on the website of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision. Included in such information is the Abortion Pill Reversal 24-hour Hotline number: 877-558-033 and website address: <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com>.

Furthermore, Section 1, subsection 2 requires a physician to provide in writing after the mifepristone is provided the following statement:

If you change your mind and wish to try to continue the pregnancy, you can get immediate help by calling the Abortion Pill Reversal 24-hour Hotline at 877-558-0333 or going to website <https://www.abortionpillreversal.com/>. Additional information is available on the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision's website, www.awomansright.org, which provides informed consent materials under the Woman's Right-to-Know Act, including information about the development of the unborn child and video of ultrasound images of the unborn child at various stages of development.

A statute similar to SB 614 was passed in 2015 in Arizona. The next year the state repealed the statute after no credible witnesses were found that supported the medication abortion reversal protocol. A federal district judge ordered the state to pay over \$600,000 in plaintiffs' legal fees even after the statute was repealed. I ask that you consider the cost of defending a statute that has not been successfully defended in any other state.

For these reasons, I urge you to veto SB 614. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Burkhart', written in a cursive style.

Julie Burkhart,
Founder and CEO
Trust Women