

Talking Points for HB 205 - Down Syndrome Nondiscrimination Abortion Act

Please use these statements to lobby members of the Utah Senate.

SAMPLE EMAIL SUBJECT: I urge you to oppose the unconstitutional HB 205 for these reasons

Dear Senator **LASTNAME**:

My name is **YOURNAME**.

I am writing to ask you to hold HB 205 in the Senate Rules committee.

This is why I oppose HB 205:

[Write your message by selecting some of the statements listed below—or drafting your own]

[[CHOOSE AND EDIT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPHS TO DRAFT YOUR EMAIL]]

HB 205 is unconstitutional. The legislature’s own attorneys added a 500-word warning to HB 205 claiming there is a “*high probability*” the law would be declared unconstitutional by courts.

A federal court in Indiana struck down a similar Down Syndrome abortion ban in 2017. Other laws in Louisiana and Ohio are being challenged or will be challenged in court.

Taxpayers in Indiana are on the hook for hundreds of thousands of dollars in legal bills defending an unconstitutional abortion ban that is almost identical to HB205

HB 205 inappropriately inserts politics into complex and private decisions of expectant parents facing a difficult decision. This bill won’t reduce the need for abortion in our communities. Instead, it will threaten women’s lives and health by making abortions harder to obtain for women who need them.

HB 205 invades patient privacy adding a new requirement for a state pathologist to review a patient’s medical records to determine if pre-natal testing or other medical procedures show the fetus had Down Syndrome.

The severe penalties HB205 imposes on Utah doctors for violating HB 205—a year in jail, the loss of their medical license, and a \$2,500 fine—will have chilling effect on patient interactions and conversations, leading to poorer quality of care.

More than 200 Utah families are waiting to access state-funded behavioral and health services for their children with Down Syndrome. HB 205 will divert hundreds of thousands of dollars to legal defense instead of helping Utah families with special needs children.

HB 205 does nothing to address the serious concerns of those with disabilities in our community. It does nothing to educate a woman and her family about having a child with a disability and it does nothing to ensure that people living with disabilities and their families have access to health care and other services they may need.

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