



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF UTAH FOUNDATION, INC
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March 28, 2016

Governor Gary R. Herbert
Utah State Capitol Complex
350 North State Street, Suite 200
PO Box 142220
Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-2220
Fax: 801-538-1528

Re: S.B. 234, "Protecting Unborn Children Amendments"

Dear Governor Herbert,

We strongly urge you to veto Senate Bill 234 "Protecting Unborn Children Amendments." This bill politicizes a medical procedure and puts a woman's health in danger. A woman's health, not politics, should drive important medical decisions. The Legislature overreached into the practice of medicine by introducing this dangerous bill.

SB 234 puts a doctor's educated, sound judgment at the mercy of politicians. The bill requires a physician to provide anesthetic to a fetus of gestational age of 20 weeks or more when performing an abortion, regardless of whether the administration of anesthetic is in the best interests of the woman. Every woman's circumstances are different, and every pregnancy is different. It is best that these decisions are made on a case-by-case basis, in consultation between a woman and her medical provider. There are many unexpected things can happen during a pregnancy, and it is important that a doctor and his or her patients have the flexibility to make the right medical decisions in the moment.

The decision to become a parent is a very personal and important one. Medical decisions about health issues related to pregnancy are likewise very complicated and challenging for a woman. Enacting a law that allows politicians to impose one rule on every woman, regardless of her circumstances, would be very inappropriate.

The measure serves no demonstrable purpose other than to create emotional and financial hardships for the woman and prevents doctors from adequately caring for their patients. While the legislation purports to alleviate organic pain to the fetus, the bill only burdens the woman for the clear purpose of undermining the constitutionally protected right to access an abortion.

For the above-mentioned reasons, we strongly urge you to veto S.B. 234, "Protecting Unborn Children Amendments." We'd be happy to discuss if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincere Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Mejia".

John Mejia
Legal Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Marina Lowe".

Marina Lowe
Legislative & Policy Counsel

cc: Jacey Skinner, Esq.