



new hampshire

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

To: Chairman Lynn and the House Judiciary Committee

Re: HB 271, Repealing the Fetal Life Protection Act

Date: February 15, 2023

Position: OUGHT TO PASS

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for New Hampshire women and girls through research, education, advocacy and grantmaking.

Women, and all people who can become pregnant, should have access to the full range of reproductive choices, including abortion. All Granite Staters should be able to access the reproductive healthcare they need in their own state without experiencing shame or stigma or criminalizing providers who care for women in complex circumstances.

We support HB 271, which would repeal the 2021 abortion ban, because arbitrary abortion bans harm women and families in complex circumstances, and the "Fetal Life Protection Act" creates inequitable access to care for Granite Staters.

Arbitrary Bans Harm Women and Families in Complex Circumstances

Arbitrary bans on abortion later in pregnancy harms women and families who have to make decisions in complex circumstances. The Fetal Life Protection Act criminalizes doctors and providers who provide crucial care for women who face these complex circumstances.

The Abortion Ban Creates Inequitable Access to Care

A 24-week abortion ban places an inequitable burden on some people who will be forced to seek abortion in another state who may not have the means to do so. This would include low-income women, women living in rural areas, those without access to transportation and survivors of domestic violence and control who are limited in their movement and travel. A 24-week abortion ban in New Hampshire targets women who need local, compassionate, reliable and affordable care the most.

Conclusion

We believe women and people who can become pregnant should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, including abortion, free from shame and stigma. We urge the Committee to recommend HB 271 Ought to Pass.