

**TO: House Health and Human Services Committee**  
**FROM: Sara McNeil, Warner, NH, board member of the League of Women Voters New Hampshire**  
[lvvnewhampshire@gmail.com](mailto:lvvnewhampshire@gmail.com)  
**RE: Opposition to House Bill 582-FN**  
**January 25, 2023**

My name is Sara McNeil and I am speaking on behalf of myself and the non-partisan League of Women Voters of New Hampshire where I serve on the state board. I am here to speak in opposition to House Bill 582 requiring the NH Division of Vital Records to collect statistics pertaining to induced termination of pregnancy.

Just three days ago, on January 22<sup>nd</sup>, we should have been celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Roe v Wade, a 7 to 2 US Supreme Court decision protecting women's reproductive rights. Instead, we are once again facing yet another bill that continues to chip away at a woman's right to choose what she believes is best for herself and her family.

Under the Statement of Purpose as written for HB 582, it states *"The general court also finds that the collection of statistical data regarding termination of pregnancy is essential to the state's compelling interest in the life and health of its citizens, including the preborn."* We ask this committee: Exactly how are these statistics essential to the well-being of our citizens? Have any of the sponsors of this bill researched other states to see how they utilize the data they collect? And, have any of these statistics improved the care of women's reproductive health? The Statement of Purpose also includes the word, "preborn". This word is closely associated with organizations who strongly oppose a woman's right to choose and should not be part of the purpose of this bill.

In addition, HB 582 does not provide us with a list of abortion statistics that the State wishes to obtain. My review of some of the CDC websites reveal a lengthy list of potential questions, including some very personal ones that very likely would need to be asked of a woman on the day of her abortion. Try for a minute to put yourself in the place of such a woman. And ask yourselves whether there is any situation in which a man would be required to answer such questions. How would you like to be asked: Are you married? Have you had other abortions? Were you using birth control measures when you got pregnant? How many children do you have? What about your financial situation? And, why are you choosing to have this abortion? These are questions that could be asked...hopefully in a better manner but still they are just a small number of the list of possible questions. After a healthcare worker has asked and recorded the answers, that person will now be responsible for ensuring that the confidential results are documented on the proper form and sent to the CDC or whatever other organizations the State chooses. We all know that healthcare workers in NH, as elsewhere, are stretched to the limit and do not need to spend more time on this type of paperwork.

Finally, the fiscal note is listed as \$25,000 to \$50,000. According to the Methodology paragraph of this bill, the Dept of Health and Human Services will need a new module to be designed, built, and tested. In addition, an education program for health care providers would need to be developed and then deployed to an unknown number of providers in a variety of healthcare settings. Periodic analysis and annual reports of this data would also need to be done and submitted to a number of once again, unknown organizations. Furthermore, the fiscal note does not include the ongoing documentation and confidential record keeping to be done by the NH Division of Vital Records who already is responsible for keeping track of births, marriages, divorces, adoptions, and deaths.

In closing, I return to my original questions about HB 582: Why is this bill needed and in what ways could the findings be essential to the well-being of our citizens?

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

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