



SB 1304/HB 2649 – Expanded Abortion Reporting

Fact Sheet

Background

The Guttmacher Institute reports that over the last 30 years, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) partners with states to aggregate statistics on abortions in the U.S., but states are not required to submit this data to the CDC.

Guttmacher gathers its information, rather than relying on individual state reports, by contacting individual abortion providers and in order to collect the data, state agencies have designed forms that abortion providers use for reporting to the state.

Currently the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) provides a form that abortion providers are required to complete with 13 data fields, including patient demographics, gestational age, specific abortion procedure, reason for the procedure (elective or medical necessity), and information on the facility where the procedure took place.

Two Supreme Court cases, *Planned Parenthood of Central Missouri v. Danforth* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey* both concluded that data collection is vital to protecting the health of women, as well as to provide information for medical research as long as recordkeeping respects a patient's confidentiality and privacy.

- 46 states require hospitals, facilities and physicians providing abortions to submit regular and confidential reports to the state.¹
- 26 states require providers to report post abortion complications.
- 15 states require providers to give information about the woman's reason for seeking the procedure.

Specifics on SB1304/HB2649

- This bill has been introduced in both the House and the Senate and expands the range of information reported to Arizona Department of Health Services with regard to abortion care.
- Currently, abortion providers are required to report particular information to ADHS in an effort to collect Arizona specific data regarding abortion care. This bill includes all of the current data required for reporting and adds additional reporting requirements health care professionals must provide such as, information about complications that may arise from the procedure and information about judicial bypasses granted to minors through the court system who are unable to secure parental consent.

¹ Guttmacher Institute, State Policies in Brief: Abortion Reporting Requirements, 2010.

- This bill will add four additional reporting areas to the 13 that are currently required. This bill goes far beyond current reporting requirements for abortion care providers; primary care physicians, urgent care providers, hospitals and other medical facilities will now be required to report information about any abortion complication in ten different data fields
- The courts will have seven new reporting requirements regarding judicial bypass for minors.
- This bill makes these reporting requirements statutory, making it a misdemeanor to disclose reporting information and to knowingly report false information. Failure to report could result in professional license suspension or revocation.

Some outstanding issues with this bill:

- If ADHS currently has issues reporting accurate numbers to the CDC and the state, how will codifying the requirement into law improve reporting outcomes?
- Currently, *reason for abortion* data is already required on reports, but the bill language may allow reporting to include requiring a woman to provide the reason why she may have chosen to have an elective abortion, creating additional burdens and violating her privacy.
- There are additional provisions that must be included in order to maintain patient and minor privacy. This is a particular concern in rural areas where a particular judge or county can be pinpointed in the case of judicial bypass.

Talking Points

- Planned Parenthood Arizona strictly adheres to the requirements set forth by the Arizona Department of Health Services, ensuring all information reported is timely and accurate.
- A discrepancy in reporting numbers may exist because Arizona has several providers and Planned Parenthood is but one; we can only ensure the numbers we provide are accurate.
- Planned Parenthood Arizona understands the importance of collecting accurate data. However, it is imperative that medical data collection protects and maintains a patient's privacy.
- No other reproductive health procedure, including vasectomies or tubal ligations, is singled out for this level of extensive reporting.