

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

May 3, 2019

The Honorable Corey Stapleton
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Secretary Stapleton:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 100 (SB 100), "AN ACT REQUIRING THAT A PREGNANT WOMAN MUST BE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO VIEW AN ACTIVE ULTRASOUND AND ULTRASOUND IMAGES AND LISTEN TO THE FETAL HEART TONE OF THE UNBORN CHILD BEFORE UNDERGOING AN ABORTION; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND AMENDING SECTION 50-20-105, MCA."

Senate Bill 100 ultimately seeks to dissuade women from exercising their legal and constitutional right to reproductive care. When the state mandates actions or speech by physicians only in the context of abortion, as this bill proposes, it is not about protecting patients or increasing the information they are provided. Rather, it is about harassing and shaming women for choosing abortion and questioning women's ability to make their own decisions.

Many leading medical organizations, such as the American Medical Association, American Medical Women's Association, and the American Public Health Association oppose procedure-specific informed consent requirements that may interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. This ultrasound requirement is not medically necessary, nor does it benefit women's health, nor is there any exception for rape or incest.

Montana's elected officials have no business substituting their personal beliefs for the sound medical judgment of our healthcare professionals or the deeply personal medical decisions of their constituents. As a father, husband, and son, I stand firmly opposed to restrictions on a woman's ability to make deeply personal medical decisions in consultation with her medical provider, and her family members and spiritual leaders, if she so chooses.

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For these reasons, I veto SB 100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", is written over a light gray rectangular background.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Scott Sales, President of the Senate
Greg Hertz, Speaker of the House