



WREN

Women's
Rights &
Empowerment
Network

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Visit scwren.org and join the movement.
- Share this information with friends and community members.
- Keep up-to-date with this and similar legislation by following WREN on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.
- Invest in WREN at scwren.org/donate.

THE POLICY

Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Ban (H.3020 and S.32)

OVERVIEW

This bill is intended to ban abortion as early as 6 weeks, regardless of women's needs and circumstances. Passing such a ban in South Carolina poses a serious threat to women's health, freedom, and dignity. This is a far-reaching bill drafted by extremist politicians whose goal is to eliminate all abortion in South Carolina.

- This bill would prevent most women from getting abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy; this is before many women even know that they are pregnant.
- Many women seeking abortion face logistical obstacles like finding a provider, securing childcare and transportation, and saving funds to cover all of the costs – all of which create delays, and in some cases, stop women from getting the abortion they want.
- The World Health Organization has concluded that restricting access to abortions does not reduce the number of abortions.¹
- Any woman of reproductive age would be affected by this law, but the worst effects would be on people who have less access to health care, including young women, women of color, women with disabilities, women with low incomes, and women in rural areas.
- According to peer-reviewed studies, over a five year period, women refused an abortion are more likely to report not having enough money to cover basic living expenses such as housing, transportation and food. This ultimately leads to four times greater odds of living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).²
- In addition, women denied abortion are more likely to experience serious complications from the end of pregnancy including eclampsia and death; more likely to stay tethered to abusive partners; more likely to suffer anxiety and loss of self-esteem in the short term after being denied abortion; and less likely to have aspirational life plans for the coming year.
- South Carolinians do NOT want such an extreme bill. According to a recent Winthrop poll, a significant majority of South Carolinians recognize certain circumstances when legal abortion may be appropriate.³
- SC chapter of American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology opposes this bill because the provision of health care during pregnancy would be severely compromised. We cannot afford to put up any more barriers to quality care.

¹ World Health Organization, News Release, *Worldwide, An Estimated 25 Million Unsafe Abortions Occur Each Year* (Sept. 28, 2017), <http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/28-09-2017-worldwide-an-estimated-25-million-unsafe-abortion-occur-each-year>

² Retrieved from <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study>.

³ Retrieved from <https://www.winthrop.edu/winthropoll/default.aspx?id=9804>.