

# Six-Week Abortion Ban (S.1)

**This bill is intended to ban abortion as early as 6 weeks, regardless of a pregnant person's needs and circumstances. Passing such a ban in South Carolina poses a serious threat to the health, freedom, and dignity of pregnant people. 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 pregnant people from getting abortions as early as six weeks into a pregnancy; this is before many people even know that they are pregnant.**

**Many people 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 people from getting the abortion they want.**

**The World Health Organization has concluded that restricting access to abortions does not reduce the number of abortions.<sup>1</sup>**

**Any person who can get pregnant would be affected by this law, but the worst effects would be on people who have less access to health care, including young people, people of color, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, and people in rural areas.**

**According to peer-reviewed studies, over a five year period, people 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).<sup>2</sup>**

**In addition, people 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.<sup>3</sup>**

**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.**

<sup>1</sup> 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-abortions-occur-each-year>

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

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

**The Women's Rights and Empowerment Network is a South Carolina-based network whose mission is to build a movement to advance the health, economic well-being, and rights of South Carolina's women, girls, and their families.**

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