

blessed day to you all, thank you for the opportunity to speak with you today. my name is morgynne tora and i am a full-time student at metropolitan state university, as well as a healing practitioner. i am here today to urge you to oppose HB22-1047. this bill is alarming in its overreach as it goes directly against what colorado voters have consistently asked for: abortion to be legal and accessible. beyond my present concern for accessibility is the criminalization of licensed physicians who perform abortion. this declaration and redefinition of human life using personal emotional ideals rather than rooted scientific fact is inappropriate and beyond the scope of this house. barring abortion across the state of colorado would create more unsafety for pregnant people, instill fear in physicians providing the essential service of choice, and overflow other state resources. this bill does nothing to protect health or well-being before life threatening circumstances arise, and at its core, would force pregnant people to make other choices that may be life threatening because of lack of access to safe abortion. the question is not whether abortions will still happen, because they have and will continue even in the face of physician criminalization. in my own life, i have held space for and been at the center of decisions about my own uterine health, and if it were not for practitioners allowed to speak freely about my options for sovereignty over my own body, i would have turned to unregulated, and unsafe means. again i urge you today, to remove your own lens of personal politic and make the decision to overturn bill HB22-1047, for the safety of colorado citizens, and the allocation of your power, elsewhere in the frame of what the citizens of this state have called for in representation.

My name is Dr. Michael Belmonte, and I'm a practicing Obstetrician/Gynecologist in Colorado. In my practice, I provide full-spectrum reproductive healthcare, including abortion care, to patients in Colorado, but also from surrounding states, and more recently to patients from across the country, particularly from Texas. I write in strong opposition to HB22-1047 and HB 22-1049. These bills not only attempt to cruelly ban abortion except in extremely limited circumstances, they subject providers serving their communities, like myself, to severe penalties, and are grounded solely in political ideology, not medicine or science.

Whether patients in Colorado are ready to build or create their families, already parenting, or focused on their education or career, all of them share something in common – they are making thoughtful, at times difficult, decisions about their health and well-being and they deserve high quality health care, including abortion care, regardless of who they are, their income, and regardless of where they live.

Abortion bans are cruel and fall most heavily on those who already face the most barriers to care due to systematic injustices. Black people, Indigenous people, communities of color, people who are immigrants, young people, LGBTQ+ people, as well as those living in geographically isolated areas would bear the brunt of HB22-1047 and 1049 at the expense of their dignity and at the expense of their health. Restrictions on abortion are rooted in white supremacy and further a shameful legacy of controlling the decision-making of people of color.

Abortion is health care, and it should not be singled out or banned. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), along with other medical societies, identifies abortion as an essential health care service that requires timely access to care. ACOG also explicitly recommends the repeal of legislation that imposes barriers to access and interferes with the patient-provider relationship, including abortion bans.

Abortion is extremely safe and placing bans on abortion care does not make it any safer. In fact, in 2018, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) published a comprehensive study affirming the safety record of abortion and pointed out that the biggest threat to patient safety is the litany of medically unnecessary abortion regulations that raise costs and delay procedures, ultimately putting patients' health at risk. They confirmed once again what physicians already know: bills like HB22-1047 and 1049 do nothing to protect people, and only serve to jeopardize the health and well-being of people who are pregnant.

Banning nearly all abortion care in Colorado will have far reaching consequences both deepening existing inequities and worsening health outcomes for pregnant people and people giving birth. For example, studies have shown that women who were denied abortion care are more likely to experience serious medical conditions, to remain in violent relationships, and to experience poverty. Research shows that states with more abortion restrictions are the same states with poorer maternal health outcomes. We also know that while most people will have healthy pregnancies, some will experience illnesses or conditions where pregnancy can cause serious problems or worsen existing health conditions. When abortion is made all but impossible to access, complicated health conditions can worsen and even result in death. It is

disingenuous for supporters of this bill to claim that they care about the health and well-being of pregnant people in Colorado and in the same breath attempt to ban access to abortion in nearly all circumstances.

It is essential for this Committee to recognize that physicians are already bound by standards of care, medical ethics, and the law. These bills make insulting assumptions about the professionalism of providers and disregards the extensive training we have undergone to provide the highest standards of medical care to the patients we serve. There are already many protections in place that dictate that I must provide the best care possible to all my patients, and there are already penalties for those who ignore these standards. Bills like HB22-1047 and 1049 only serve to further stigmatize abortion care and are an attempt to criminalize and intimidate health care professionals providing necessary, high-quality care to their communities.

Furthermore, the exceptions to the abortion ban regarding medical emergencies is wholly unworkable. I have provided care to many patients who likely would have died or had life altering complications if abortion were not an option. Whether it be the patient who came to the hospital with severe bleeding going unconscious before my eyes, the patient with an infection in her uterus from her bag of water being broken too early in pregnancy, or the patient whose heart is failing because it can't support her growing pregnancy; they all needed emergent abortion care to save their lives. And these are only patients from recent memory; my colleagues and I have saved many more lives because of our ability to provide abortion care.

I know that I would rightly fear criminal prosecution, and likely would not provide abortion care even in these circumstances; I know my colleagues throughout Colorado would feel similarly. Such an unclear standard will create a chilling effect among providers at the expense of the health and safety of Coloradans.

Should HB22-1047 and 1049 become law the ripple effects would be felt across the country. I have already seen the impacts of Texas' SB8, with a significant increase in patients traveling further and further to seek my care and the impact would be catastrophic for many parts of the country should these bills become law. It is unconscionable that Members of this Committee would willingly subject Coloradans to such detrimental impacts.

Members of this Committee have an opportunity to ensure law and policy is based in sound science and medical evidence. Under no circumstances should Colorado politicians attempt to limit access to abortion care. Together, we can achieve a future where equitable access to reproductive health care is available to every Coloradan.

I strongly urge you to oppose HB22-1047 and 1049.



February 22, 2022

The Honorable Susan Lontine
Chair
House Health and Insurance Committee
200 E Colfax, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

The Honorable David Ortiz
Vice Chair
House Health and Insurance Committee
200 E Colfax, Room 307
Denver, CO 80203

Catholics for Choice Testimony — A State of Crisis: Examining the Urgent Need to Protect and Expand Abortion Rights and Access in Colorado

Dear Chair Lontine, Vice Chair Ortiz, and members of the House Health and Insurance Committee,

On behalf of Catholics for Choice, I urge you to oppose HB22-1079 and HB22-1047 so that Coloradans may access the care they need to live full, healthy lives. Catholics for Choice serves as a voice for the majority of the over 70 million Catholics in the United States—including over 842,000 Catholics in Colorado, who support access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare services because of their faith, not in spite of it. Colorado Catholics agree with the majority of Americans who want healthcare decisions to be made by patients rather than politicians, according to their own consciences, and in consultation with medical professionals and whomever else they choose. All people are moral agents and must be allowed and encouraged to make decisions that are right for them and their families, according to their own beliefs and consciences. Bills like these that serve to make abortion care unavailable and inaccessible for Coloradans are unconscionable and obstruct one's ability to follow their consciences in matters of moral decision-making.

The proposals you are considering are extreme and morally bankrupt— HB22-1079 and HB22-1047 use misleading, inflammatory language in an attempt to advance a political agenda over sound science and medicine. Coloradans have the right to make their own conscience-based decisions, including decisions about whether or not to continue a pregnancy. Catholics believe deeply in the values of dignity, compassion, justice, and respect —all of which compel us to fight for reproductive health, rights, and justice for everyone. Curtailing self-determination and bodily autonomy is always wrong, but especially so when people's health and lives are at stake.

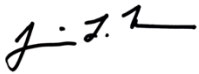
The role of individual conscience is at the core of the Catholic faith, and the public policy views of Catholics reflect this tradition. Catholics support policies that enable pregnant people to follow their consciences when deciding how best to build and care for their families and abhor policies such as these that place insurmountable barriers between pregnant people and the care they need. Ultimately, one in four abortion patients in this country is Catholic, and for many of them, access to equitable,

In Good Conscience

compassionate abortion care is a blessing. When people are denied abortion care, the consequences can be far-reaching. It is not the role of lawmakers to assign value to their constituents' individual choices or stymie their moral autonomy but rather to grant them the dignity and respect to follow their consciences and make the choices that are best for them, their health and their families.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlee Breakstone, State Policy Associate, at mbreakstone@catholicsforchoice.org.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. L. Manson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jamie L. Manson
President, Catholics for Choice

February 23, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Susan Lontine and Members of the Health and Insurance Committee

Re: Letter in Opposition to H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Health and Insurance Committee,

The Center for Reproductive Rights (“Center”) strongly opposes House Bill 1047 (“H.B. 1047”) and House Bill 1079 (“H.B. 1079”) and urges you to vote against these unconstitutional abortion bans.

The Center is a legal advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the right to access abortion and other reproductive health care services. For 30 years, the Center has successfully challenged restrictions on abortion throughout the United States. In 2020, the Center won an important abortion rights case, *June Medical Services v. Russo*, in which the U.S. Supreme Court struck down burdensome abortion restrictions and upheld protections for abortion care. Currently, the Center is challenging Mississippi’s fifteen week ban in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, arguing that under settled law, the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Constitution prohibits a state from enacting a law that bans abortion prior to the point in pregnancy when a fetus is viable.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 stigmatize abortion and shame the Coloradans who access care by banning abortion before viability. The impact of these bills – like all abortion bans and restrictions – will fall hardest on Black, Indigenous, and people of color, people with disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, immigrants, and those having difficulty making ends meet. In striking down the Mississippi ban in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, the district court was clear that the right to abortion is a matter of racial justice and gender equality, saying that ban is “closer to the old Mississippi” that was intent on controlling women’s bodies and with a history of forced sterilization of Black women.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 are unconstitutional abortion bans that violate nearly fifty years of Supreme Court precedent, established in *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny.¹ As the United States Supreme Court has emphasized, “viability marks the earliest point at which the State’s interest in

¹ E.g., *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2324 (2016); *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124, 146 (2007); *Planned Parenthood of Se. Pennsylvania v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 879, 878, and 877 (1992); *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 163-64 (1973).

fetal life is constitutionally adequate to justify a legislative ban on nontherapeutic abortions.”² These bills criminalize abortion at the point of fertilization and are facially unconstitutional.

H.B. 1047 and H.B. 1079 do not provide an exception for when abortion is medically necessary to preserve a pregnant person’s health. An abortion ban that fails to include a comprehensive health exception is unconstitutional at any stage of pregnancy, even after viability, because it does not adequately allow abortion providers to exercise their medical judgment to protect a pregnant person’s health in all circumstances.

A public policy of forced pregnancy is not only unconstitutional but woefully out of touch with a sound majority of Coloradans. Voters across the state and across the political spectrum have rejected abortion bans on the ballot four times since 2008 – most recently in 2020 when nearly 60% of voters rejected a ban on abortion later in pregnancy. If the wellness of pregnant people and children is a concern for the state, policymakers’ time and effort would be better spent enacting policies that are known to support pregnant people and children, rather than enacting unconstitutional abortion restrictions that cause irreparable harm and disregard the will of Colorado voters.³

We urge you to reject H.B 1047 and H.B. 1079. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or would like further information. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Lizzy Hinkley
State Legislative Counsel, State Policy and Advocacy
Center for Reproductive Rights
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
lhinkley@reprorights.org

² *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. at 860, 870 (“We conclude the line should be drawn at viability, so that before that time the woman has a right to choose to terminate her pregnancy.”).

³ EVALUATING PRIORITIES, *Colorado*, <https://evaluatingpriorities.org/>.



James R. Potter
Legislative Coordinator
Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care
1111 Red Feather Road
Cotopaxi, Colorado 81223-9304
Telephone: 719-942-3912 Cell: 864-316-1058
Email: jamesraymonpotter@gmail.com

February 21, 2022

CORRECTED SUBMISSION

Re: Oppose HB22-1047, HB22-1079 and HB22-1079

Dear Members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:

The Colorado Foundation for Universal Health Care is a non-profit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving health care for all Coloradans. We believe that health care is a human right which requires that access be without financial and other barriers. We support legislation that makes health care more just and more accessible, while also realizing that the entire health care system needs fundamental reform to make it truly universal.

We oppose HB22-1047, and HB22-1079 which claim to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose, and HB22-1075, which demands that health care providers submit private data on induced abortions and penalize those who do not comply. These bills are blatant violations of the 14th Amendment to the US Constitution. They punish women for exercising their right of personal autonomy and unduly burden their right of access to reproductive services. As Justice Sotomayer recently wrote, such laws are "a brazen challenge to our federal structure...[that] ... echoes the philosophy of John C Calhoun, a virulent defender of the slaveholding South who insisted that States had the right to "veto" or "nullif[y]" any federal law with which they disagreed."

In addition, these laws undermine a woman's fundamental right to equality and thereby strengthen the privileges of men thus making women separate and unequal. No men are similarly punished for unwanted pregnancies though they are often the cause.

We urge you to vote against these bills.

Yours truly,



COLORADO CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

1535 Logan Street | Denver, CO 80203-1913
303-894-8808 | cocatholicconference.org

2022 February 23

Thank you, Madame Chair, and thank you esteemed members of the committee.

My name is Brittany Vessely. I am executive director of the Colorado Catholic Conference (CCC), which is the united voice of the four Catholic bishops of Colorado in public policy. I am speaking on behalf of the conference this afternoon to testify **in support** of HB 1047. We thank Representative Neville for his sponsoring this bill and for defending the rights of preborn children.

Human reason based on the findings of science affirms that human life begins at conception. After conception, the child's heartbeat can be heard as soon as 16 days later. Brain waves can be measured at six weeks, and in the first trimester of pregnancy, the baby can yawn, kick, curl her body up, and suck her thumb. After first trimester, she will have all of her major organ systems in place. Yet her life did not begin when any of these milestones were reached. Her life began when she scientifically came into existence — and that is at the moment of her conception.

The Catholic Church objects to abortion on the moral principle that each and every human life has inherent dignity, and thus must be treated with respect due to a human person. This is the foundation of the Church's social doctrine. There has never been or will be a legitimate need to abort a baby in the womb.

The United State Conference of Catholic Bishops has identified abortion as the preeminent issue of our time because it attacks innocent human life when it is most vulnerable and because it happens within the context of the family, attacking the most precious of human relationships: that between a mother and a child.

Colorado protected life successfully in abolishing the death penalty in 2020. Now it is also time to protect the lives of preborn children.

The Colorado Catholic Conference urges support of HB 1047 to ensure that every human person – born or preborn – has the opportunity to thrive and live their life to the fullest. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Brittany Vessely

Executive Director, Colorado Catholic Conference

House Health & Insurance
 02/23/2022 01:30 PM
 HB22-1047 Protecting Human Life At Conception
 Typed Text of Testimony Submitted

Name, Position, Representing	Typed Text of Testimony
Virginia Gebhart Against Self	<p>I'm disappointed that Representative Neville seeks to strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Would Representative Neville consent to be stripped of dominion over his own body? Of course he would not. To suggest otherwise is unthinkable. The same is true for women. It is unthinkable that the state could be granted the power to strip women of dominion over their own bodies.</p> <p>Please vote no on this bill which would grant power to the state to do the unthinkable, strip women of dominion over their own bodies. Please vote no.</p>
Joanne Dadlani For Self	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to share my point of view. I am fortunate to live in a country where I have a voice and what I say will be taken under consideration when passing laws for the state of Colorado.</p> <p>The Constitution states the main purpose of government is to protect its citizens. This protection is not dependent upon size, color, race or background. So I am asking all of you to protect the life of a child in the womb.</p> <p>I'm asking you to pass HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life at Conception.</p> <p>At conception a unique individual comes into existence. The child's gender, hair, and eye color are established. Just 22 days after fertilization, the embryo's heart begins to beat. With the invention of the ultrasound, we can no longer deny the embryo is anything other than a living human being. Science clearly shows that we need to end the myth, "the unborn baby is just a clump of cells."</p> <p>When did we begin to believe a pig = a dog = a boy? What other living creature, besides humans, can make music, create poetry, laugh, and love? We need to acknowledge the child in the womb is a living human being and deserves to be respected, cherished, and protected. It is your job, as an elected government official, to protect the life of the citizen in the womb.</p> <p>I am asking all of you to follow to the science. The ultrasound tells the full story. It is time to stop suppressing the truth.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joan E. Smith-Dadlani</p>

<p>Margarita Nelson For Self</p>	<p>Each incredible and beautiful human life begins at the moment of conception and deserves protection under the law. Please support HB-22-1047.</p>
<p>Barbara Tidd Against Self</p>	<p>I strongly oppose HB22-1047, which claims to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose. Men have a right to choose. Why do propose in this bill that women not have a right to choose what happens within their own body?</p> <p>Instead, your focus needs to be on feeding the hungry and providing housing for the population that has been born. There are thousands of people in Colorado living hand to mouth, from paycheck to paycheck, living on the streets or unable to afford housing, and unable to afford health care, which is critical through one’s pregnancy if one chooses to but cannot get an abortion. How does allowing UNwanted pregnancies which increases the population help these crises?</p> <p>Put yourself in a woman’s shoes. How about women legislators passing laws restricting what YOU can do with your body and telling YOU that you must carry an unborn fetus in your body for 9 months, deliver that body, and then choose to raise that child for 18+ years or put it up for adoption? This all costs money and takes time, which many do not have because they’re working 2 or 3 jobs.</p> <p>What is the purpose of this Bill?</p> <p>Please withdraw this Bill.</p>
<p>Diana Rhodes Against Advocates for Youth</p>	<p>Advocates for Youth is a national organization that partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth. Advocates for Youth understands that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and equity.</p> <p>Our organization has partnered with Colorado-based organizations for over a decade, supporting the work of reproductive equity and rights for all Coloradans. We work with young people across the state who face barriers in accessing the care they need and are seeking to provide testimony on a disconcerting bill that is before the House Health & Insurance Committee.</p> <p>HB1047 AKA: a “Personhood abortion ban” would ban virtually all abortions and impose several criminal penalties against providers, pharmacists, and other health professionals who perform surgical abortion care or dispense medication for a non-surgical procedure. This is not only unconstitutional, but also an alarming governmental</p>

	<p>overreach. This is the 11th consecutive legislative session in a row that this policy has been brought forward. The same concept has also been defeated on Colorado ballots three (3) times.</p> <p>Advocates for Youth opposes this bill outright as it would ban abortion care for Coloradans and is a clear governmental overreach, and blatant disregard to citizens' rights to healthcare.</p>
<p>Janet McDaniel For Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives, Please SUPPORT HB22-1047 Protecting Human Life at Conception. It is a scientific fact that human life begins at conception. As a society, we all benefit when those weakest and most vulnerable among us are protected. Life is the first, and most important, of our inalienable rights. No person or government should be able to take it away. Please SUPPORT HB22-1047.</p>
<p>Megan Storhaug For Self</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Megan. I am a proud mother of 3 blessings, 2 here and one that is in heaven. I am writing this from a place of passion, passion for life and congruently advocating for the sanctity of it. I myself come from a broken childhood, which has remain a catalyst for me to break generational cycles.....that being said, it is not lost on me that in spite of the instability of my biological parents (both as individuals and their circumstances/life choices) they chose life for me, they honored the sanctity of my unborn life.</p> <p>While my husband and I lead a lifestyle polar-opposite to my biological family, as individuals + as a couple + as parents - we were however faced with the unexpected unknown while I was nearing 20 weeks pregnant with our youngest child. In 2014 I miscarried at 10 weeks pregnant, and to this day our family is thankful for those 10 weeks and our children are not strangers to their angel sibling. Just 6 months after that traumatic loss, I learned I was pregnant with our rainbow baby.....what I did not know however is that at near 20 weeks pregnant with him I would be alone at a perinatologist due to an abnormal ultrasound.....and without any full explanation as the "cause" was still unknown.....the specialist was suggesting "At this point in pregnancy some will choose bloodwork, it could be XYZ (trisomy diagnosis), and yet many do choose termination.".....to which I replied, "Terminating the life of my unborn child is NOT an option!".....nearly 5 months later our tenacious boy was born, and wouldn't you know that other than mild/moderate hearing loss (which is NOT detectable via ultrasound), our boy is thriving in life - in spite of that abnormal ultrasound, and even with hearing loss (Praise God for the technology of "super ears" - hearing aids!) So, I implore you today, prioritize the sanctity of life - all life, specifically the most vulnerable - being the unborn child!AND ALSO BECAUSE - NO life is worth termination or even advocacy of termination. Termination of life is not healthcare! Thank you for hearing me today!</p>

<p>Mark Korb For Self</p>	<p>To the extent possible, political decisions bearing on the health and welfare of our fellow citizens should be based on observable fact--frequently reinforced by accepted science.</p> <p>Embriology establishes that at the moment of conception, a unique, individual human being comes into being. This being is entitled to the same protection as any born citizen walking among us. Allowed to develop consistently with its identity and DNA, this "product of conception" will, at birth, clearly be the same human creature as you and I.</p> <p>I urge adoption of HB 22-1047.</p>
<p>Karen Wagoner For Self</p>	<p>Madam Chair, Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Colorado Bills HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life At Conception, and HB22-1075, Abolishing Abortion In Colorado, are intended to protect the lives of the Pre-born in Colorado. My words are not intended to judge the past but rather to change the future. It is time for Colorado to acknowledge that the life of the Pre-born IS life with a right to live. At conception the child has the same genetic components – 23 pairs of chromosomes - as someone outside of the womb. She is a small child, a person, encased in the womb. She is a child just as is her 2 year old brother who has the right to live. If Colorado does not choose life, the alternative is abortion. A State that determines a person’s right to live based upon their size and where they dwell is equally capable to determine that another class or status of persons does not have the right to live. Support these two bills. Support Life for the Pre-born! Respectfully, Karen M. Wagoner Longmont, CO</p>
<p>Michelle Vogel For Self</p>	<p>I am simply asking you to vote "yes" on this important bill. It is important because I am speaking up for the lives of children who have no voice of their own. We should speak for the vulnerable, the weak, the voiceless, and the ones who should be most protected. This does not diminish the pain and hardship on the mother, but rather it is to say, we want to help these overwhelmed, yet potentially courageous women to choose LIFE and they will have help from countless people, like me, if only given the opportunity. It is never the fault of the child. Please represent me, and all the children who have been already murdered and are daily being killed in our state. Protect life from conception.</p>
<p>Diane Borden</p>	<p>I support HB22-1047. Protecting Human Life At Conception.</p>

<p>For Self</p>	<p>We all start out in life at conception. We cannot become a human without it. That's why I support this bill, because it protects life at its very beginning.</p> <p>And there are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p> <p>Please support this bill HB22-1047. Thank you.</p>
<p>Tera Bilodeau Against Self</p>	<p>I am testifying in opposition to HB 1047 and HB 1079. I all too often watch the uterus owners around me struggle. It's not just the day to day misogyny, the assumptions that they're too delicate for the world, and the being talked over. It's the fear around pregnancy. It's the fear of what happens if birth control fails. It's fear that they don't have control over their own bodies and their own futures.</p> <p>Bodily autonomy should always be protected. Even if one believes that a fetus is a fully formed human, why does an unformed life take precedence over one that is already here? Why should uterus owners be forced to sacrifice their bodies, their only life, and their blood, over something they know they don't want? Why should their lives and bodies be dictated by the rest of the world?</p> <p>"You shouldn't have intercourse if you're not ready for a child" is one of many lacking anti-abortion activists claims. Sex is healthy and normal everyday part of life. Uterus owners shouldn't have to sacrifice their sexual wellbeing and their intimacy because they don't want to be forced to have a child if something goes wrong.</p> <p>Really this comes down to the misogynistic part of society trying to control women and their bodies. And that's what abortion restrictions do.</p> <p>Most uterus owners getting abortions already have children. They know what pregnancy is, what it entails. Even those who haven't - it's their body and their life. They should have the freedom to do what they want with both.</p> <p>We could sit here and argue about when personhood can be claimed until the end of time, but in the end the state and society should not have any control over any part of a decision about someone's body, especially when that decision permanently alters their life.</p>

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Joanne Dadlani For Self	<p>Thank you for this opportunity to share my point of view. I am fortunate to live in a country where I have a voice and what I say will be taken under consideration when passing laws for the state of Colorado.</p> <p>The Constitution states the main purpose of government is to protect its citizens. This protection is not dependent upon size, color, race or background. So I am asking all of you to protect the life of a child in the womb.</p> <p>I'm asking you to pass HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life at Conception.</p> <p>At conception a unique individual comes into existence. The child's gender, hair, and eye color are established. Just 22 days after fertilization, the embryo's heart begins to beat. With the invention of the ultrasound, we can no longer deny the embryo is anything other than a living human being. Science clearly shows that we need to end the myth, "the unborn baby is just a clump of cells."</p> <p>When did we begin to believe a pig = a dog = a boy? What other living creature, besides humans, can make music, create poetry, laugh, and love? We need to acknowledge the child in the womb is a living human being and deserves to be respected, cherished, and protected. It is your job, as an elected government official, to protect the life of the citizen in the womb.</p> <p>I am asking all of you to follow to the science. The ultrasound tells the full story. It is time to stop suppressing the truth.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joan E. Smith-Dadlani</p>

<p>Margarita Nelson For Self</p>	<p>Each incredible and beautiful human life begins at the moment of conception and deserves protection under the law. Please support HB-22-1047.</p>
<p>Barbara Tidd Against Self</p>	<p>I strongly oppose HB22-1047, which claims to protect human life at conception by prohibiting abortions and making it a felony for health care providers to assist in a woman's right to choose. Men have a right to choose. Why do propose in this bill that women not have a right to choose what happens within their own body?</p> <p>Instead, your focus needs to be on feeding the hungry and providing housing for the population that has been born. There are thousands of people in Colorado living hand to mouth, from paycheck to paycheck, living on the streets or unable to afford housing, and unable to afford health care, which is critical through one’s pregnancy if one chooses to but cannot get an abortion. How does allowing UNwanted pregnancies which increases the population help these crises?</p> <p>Put yourself in a woman’s shoes. How about women legislators passing laws restricting what YOU can do with your body and telling YOU that you must carry an unborn fetus in your body for 9 months, deliver that body, and then choose to raise that child for 18+ years or put it up for adoption? This all costs money and takes time, which many do not have because they’re working 2 or 3 jobs.</p> <p>What is the purpose of this Bill?</p> <p>Please withdraw this Bill.</p>
<p>Diana Rhodes Against Advocates for Youth</p>	<p>Advocates for Youth is a national organization that partners with young people and their adult allies to champion youth rights to bodily autonomy and build power to transform policies, programs and systems to secure sexual health and equity for all youth. Advocates for Youth understands that reproductive and sexual health and rights are inextricably tied to social justice and equity.</p> <p>Our organization has partnered with Colorado-based organizations for over a decade, supporting the work of reproductive equity and rights for all Coloradans. We work with young people across the state who face barriers in accessing the care they need and are seeking to provide testimony on a disconcerting bill that is before the House Health & Insurance Committee.</p> <p>HB1047 AKA: a “Personhood abortion ban” would ban virtually all abortions and impose several criminal penalties against providers, pharmacists, and other health professionals who perform surgical abortion care or dispense medication for a non-surgical procedure. This is not only unconstitutional, but also an alarming governmental</p>

	<p>overreach. This is the 11th consecutive legislative session in a row that this policy has been brought forward. The same concept has also been defeated on Colorado ballots three (3) times.</p> <p>Advocates for Youth opposes this bill outright as it would ban abortion care for Coloradans and is a clear governmental overreach, and blatant disregard to citizens' rights to healthcare.</p>
<p>Janet McDaniel For Self</p>	<p>Dear Representatives, Please SUPPORT HB22-1047 Protecting Human Life at Conception. It is a scientific fact that human life begins at conception. As a society, we all benefit when those weakest and most vulnerable among us are protected. Life is the first, and most important, of our inalienable rights. No person or government should be able to take it away. Please SUPPORT HB22-1047.</p>
<p>Megan Storhaug For Self</p>	<p>Hello, my name is Megan. I am a proud mother of 3 blessings, 2 here and one that is in heaven. I am writing this from a place of passion, passion for life and congruently advocating for the sanctity of it. I myself come from a broken childhood, which has remain a catalyst for me to break generational cycles.....that being said, it is not lost on me that in spite of the instability of my biological parents (both as individuals and their circumstances/life choices) they chose life for me, they honored the sanctity of my unborn life.</p> <p>While my husband and I lead a lifestyle polar-opposite to my biological family, as individuals + as a couple + as parents - we were however faced with the unexpected unknown while I was nearing 20 weeks pregnant with our youngest child. In 2014 I miscarried at 10 weeks pregnant, and to this day our family is thankful for those 10 weeks and our children are not strangers to their angel sibling. Just 6 months after that traumatic loss, I learned I was pregnant with our rainbow baby.....what I did not know however is that at near 20 weeks pregnant with him I would be alone at a perinatologist due to an abnormal ultrasound.....and without any full explanation as the "cause" was still unknown.....the specialist was suggesting "At this point in pregnancy some will choose bloodwork, it could be XYZ (trisomy diagnosis), and yet many do choose termination.".....to which I replied, "Terminating the life of my unborn child is NOT an option!".....nearly 5 months later our tenacious boy was born, and wouldn't you know that other than mild/moderate hearing loss (which is NOT detectable via ultrasound), our boy is thriving in life - in spite of that abnormal ultrasound, and even with hearing loss (Praise God for the technology of "super ears" - hearing aids!)! So, I implore you today, prioritize the sanctity of life - all life, specifically the most vulnerable - being the unborn child!AND ALSO BECAUSE - NO life is worth termination or even advocacy of termination. Termination of life is not healthcare! Thank you for hearing me today!</p>

<p>Mark Korb For Self</p>	<p>To the extent possible, political decisions bearing on the health and welfare of our fellow citizens should be based on observable fact--frequently reinforced by accepted science.</p> <p>Embriology establishes that at the moment of conception, a unique, individual human being comes into being. This being is entitled to the same protection as any born citizen walking among us. Allowed to develop consistently with its identity and DNA, this "product of conception" will, at birth, clearly be the same human creature as you and I.</p> <p>I urge adoption of HB 22-1047.</p>
<p>Karen Wagoner For Self</p>	<p>Madam Chair, Thank you for the opportunity to speak. Colorado Bills HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life At Conception, and HB22-1075, Abolishing Abortion In Colorado, are intended to protect the lives of the Pre-born in Colorado. My words are not intended to judge the past but rather to change the future. It is time for Colorado to acknowledge that the life of the Pre-born IS life with a right to live. At conception the child has the same genetic components – 23 pairs of chromosomes - as someone outside of the womb. She is a small child, a person, encased in the womb. She is a child just as is her 2 year old brother who has the right to live. If Colorado does not choose life, the alternative is abortion. A State that determines a person’s right to live based upon their size and where they dwell is equally capable to determine that another class or status of persons does not have the right to live. Support these two bills. Support Life for the Pre-born! Respectfully, Karen M. Wagoner Longmont, CO</p>
<p>Michelle Vogel For Self</p>	<p>I am simply asking you to vote "yes" on this important bill. It is important because I am speaking up for the lives of children who have no voice of their own. We should speak for the vulnerable, the weak, the voiceless, and the ones who should be most protected. This does not diminish the pain and hardship on the mother, but rather it is to say, we want to help these overwhelmed, yet potentially courageous women to choose LIFE and they will have help from countless people, like me, if only given the opportunity. It is never the fault of the child. Please represent me, and all the children who have been already murdered and are daily being killed in our state. Protect life from conception.</p>
<p>Diane Borden</p>	<p>I support HB22-1047. Protecting Human Life At Conception.</p>

<p>For Self</p>	<p>We all start out in life at conception. We cannot become a human without it. That’s why I support this bill, because it protects life at its very beginning.</p> <p>And there are many other options for a pregnancy other than abortion. For instance, adoption. I experienced this and was able to meet my adopted child after she was an adult. She had a wonderful life with her adopted parents. Meeting her was the most wonderful day of my life.</p> <p>Please support this bill HB22-1047. Thank you.</p>
<p>Judy Danielson Against Self</p>	<p>Madam Chair and Honorable Committee members,</p> <p>I am 78 years old and over childbearing age but believe that the state does not have a right to make a personal decision regarding childbearing for any woman.</p> <p>I am a member of CO Foundation 4 Universal Health Care and also a Quaker. I believe that there is God in everyone, everything. Yes, life is sacred, so I understand the desire to protect it. But we speculate about the unknown, in this case the unborn, in ways that often hurt the living, the pregnant woman.</p> <p>No matter who we are, the color of our skin, how much we make, or where we live, all women want to make these extremely difficult decisions for themselves. The government and certainly men, who have no idea of context, do not have that right.</p> <p>There are already provisions in the CO Constitution that prevent many low income people from having abortions, as the state provides no financial assistance. It isn't right that a women of means can make that hard choice, while those in poverty, even less able to support a child, cannot. We punish the mother, but the child, too.</p> <p>These bills also seek to severely punish any medical provider who believes it is their duty to save the life of the woman. Do we wish to go back to the days of back alley coat-hanger abortions? It would be a death sentence for many women who feel they have no other choice.</p> <p>It would be a hard for me to have to decide whether to have an abortion. I have been fortunate to have been mature enough, escaped being raped, never have lived in extreme poverty, been born black or forced to flee my country. For these reasons, I wanted and could care for a child when the time came. Anyone who has not experienced those conditions should not be making such personal decisions for others.</p> <p>I firmly oppose HR22-1047 and HR 1079 and urge this committee to unanimously reject them.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your caring and listening!</p>
<p>Emily Downs For Self</p>	<p>Dear Chairwoman and Committee,</p> <p>My question is don't we all want to care for women, family, and children? Can't we support them all? We have seen the science but some are denying it. More importantly, each human being is made in the Image of God at conception and was known by God before this, as God "knits children in the womb," as stated in Psalm 139. Why are you so</p>

	<p>adamant about abortion? Shouldn't we allow women to see all options, and if they choose life, that's awesome? They don't have to feel coerced into choosing death, and we aren't trying to coerce anyone either or to make them feel bad. Sure, we believe it is the murder of a child. However, we know the tragic loss these families are put through, and if they have made this tragic decision, we want to support them and to know that there is redemption in Christ. Women can succeed with women. And there is also no reason to abort a child for medical reasons, per Dr. Anthony Levatino, a former abortionist. Are you trying to support abortion or the individual and their choice? Life is a wonderful thing and should not be taken for granted, and we can all support it and then focus on other problems in the system that tends to be brought up!</p>
<p>Tera Bilodeau Against Self</p>	<p>I am testifying in opposition to HB 1047 and HB 1079. I all too often watch the uterus owners around me struggle. It's not just the day to day misogyny, the assumptions that they're too delicate for the world, and the being talked over. It's the fear around pregnancy. It's the fear of what happens if birth control fails. It's fear that they don't have control over their own bodies and their own futures.</p> <p>Bodily autonomy should always be protected. Even if one believes that a fetus is a fully formed human, why does an unformed life take precedence over one that is already here? Why should uterus owners be forced to sacrifice their bodies, their only life, and their blood, over something they know they don't want? Why should their lives and bodies be dictated by the rest of the world?</p> <p>"You shouldn't have intercourse if you're not ready for a child" is one of many lacking anti-abortion activists claims. Sex is healthy and normal everyday part of life. Uterus owners shouldn't have to sacrifice their sexual wellbeing and their intimacy because they don't want to be forced to have a child if something goes wrong.</p> <p>Really this comes down to the misogynistic part of society trying to control women and their bodies. And that's what abortion restrictions do.</p> <p>Most uterus owners getting abortions already have children. They know what pregnancy is, what it entails. Even those who haven't - it's their body and their life. They should have the freedom to do what they want with both.</p> <p>We could sit here and argue about when personhood can be claimed until the end of time, but in the end the state and society should not have any control over any part of a decision about someone's body, especially when that decision permanently alters their life.</p>



11 DUPONT CIRCLE NW
SUITE 800
WASHINGTON, DC 20036
202-588-5180
NWLC.ORG

February 18, 2022

House Health and Insurance Committee
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

RE: OPPOSE H.B. 22-1047 – Abortion Ban

Dear Members of the Health and Insurance Committee,

The National Women's Law Center (NWLC), based in Washington, D.C., is a nonpartisan, non-profit legal and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement and protection of women's legal rights and opportunities. The Law Center is submitting comments in opposition to House Bill 22-1047.¹ We urge the Committee to stop this harmful and unconstitutional bill.

At the Law Center, we use the law in all its forms to change culture and drive solutions to the gender inequity that shapes our society, and to break down the barriers that harm all of us – especially those who face multiple forms of discrimination. We know that access to reproductive health care – including abortion – is vital to gender equity. And access to abortion is a key part of one's liberty, equality, and economic security. Everyone, no matter where they live or their financial means, has the right to access abortion when they need it, without government interference and with dignity and respect. As such, we strongly oppose attempts to put abortion care out of reach for many Coloradans, like House Bill 22-1047.

I. House Bill 22-1047 is an unconstitutional and harmful abortion ban.

For over forty-nine years, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that the U.S. Constitution protects an individual's right to decide whether to have an abortion.² Beginning with *Roe v. Wade*³ the Supreme Court held that the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment protects a woman's right to decide to have an abortion, and that the State cannot ban abortion prior to viability; and after viability, the State cannot ban abortion when it is necessary to preserve the life or health of the woman.⁴ The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the central holding in *Roe v. Wade*. In *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, the Court adopted an undue burden test to determine whether a law creates a substantial obstacle to accessing abortion, but still made clear that "a State may not prohibit any woman from

¹ Co. H.B. 22-1047, Reg. Sess. 2022.

² See, e.g., *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 153 (1973); see also *Planned Parenthood of Cent. Mo. v. Danforth*, 428 U.S. 52, 72–73 (1976); *City of Akron v. Akron Ctr. for Reprod. Health, Inc.*, 462 U.S. 416, 432–33 (1983); *Hodgson v. Minnesota*, 497 U.S. 417, 434 (1990); *Planned Parenthood of Se. Pa. v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 878 (1992); *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292, 2318 (2016).

³ *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113, 166 (1973).

⁴ *Id.* at 163-165.

making the ultimate decision to terminate her pregnancy before viability.”⁵ This has been repeatedly reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, including as recently as 2020, in *June Medical Services v. Russo*.⁶ As of this writing, all states – Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Utah – that have attempted to enforce an abortion ban at conception, like H.B. 22-1047, have been stopped by court order.⁷

Not only is H.B. 22-1047 unconstitutional, it shows an appalling lack of concern for and understanding of the reality of people’s lives and decisions, and health. Pregnancy and childbirth pose serious health risks, driving crisis-level pregnancy-related mortality rates for Black women.⁸ Pregnant people should be able to get the care they need throughout a pregnancy, and in consultation with those they trust, such as a medical professional, without political interference.

II. Abortion care is necessary for gender equity, and H.B. 22-1047 would eliminate access to that care for most people.

If House Bill 22-1047 becomes law, most pregnant people seeking abortion care would have to travel out of state to reach an abortion provider. The direct travel costs and associated expenses – such as childcare, time off work, gas or other transportation expenses, and hotel costs⁹ - would, at a minimum, make it incredibly difficult to obtain an abortion. For some pregnant people, H.B. 22-1047 would force them to carry a pregnancy against their will, resulting in serious harms.

As the Supreme Court in *Casey* named: “The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the Nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives.”¹⁰ On the other hand, being forced to continue a pregnancy results in substantial economic, educational, and professional burdens. Such consequences are particularly detrimental to those who work in low-paid jobs or live in poverty, who are disproportionately people of color.

In addition to the serious implications for bodily autonomy and one’s health, forcing a person to carry a pregnancy to term can have long-term negative consequences with respect to their economic security, workforce participation, and educational opportunities. A study comparing people who terminated a pregnancy to those who wanted but were unable to obtain an abortion found that one year later people denied an abortion were less likely to be employed in a full-time job, and even four years after being denied, those that were denied were still more likely to be living below the federal poverty line.¹¹

⁵ *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*, 505 U.S. 833, 879 (1992).

⁶ 140 S. Ct. 2103, 2135 (2020).

⁷ GUTTMACHER INST., *State Bans on Abortion Throughout Pregnancy* (Jan. 1, 2022), <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/state-policies-later-abortions>.

⁸ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat’l Women’s Law Ctr. et al. in Support of Respondents at 6-7, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Org.*, No. 19-1392, https://www.supremecourt.gov/DocketPDF/19/19-1392/192909/20210920125441954_19-1392%20Thomas%20E%20Dobbs%20v%20Jackson%20Womens%20Health%20Brief%20of%20Amici%20in%20Support..pdf.

⁹ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat’l Women’s Law Ctr. et al. in Support of Petitioners at 16-18, *Whole Woman’s Health v. Hellerstedt*, 136 S. Ct. 2292 (2016) (No. 15-274), <https://nwlc.org/resources/45623-2/>.

¹⁰ *Casey*, 505 U.S. at 856.

¹¹ Women denied an abortion had almost four times greater odds of a household income below the federal poverty level and three times greater odds of being unemployed. *Turnaway Study*, BIXBY CENT. FOR GLOBAL REPROD. HEALTH, <https://www.ansirh.org/research/turnaway-study>; Diana Greene Foster, *Presentation at the American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo: Socioeconomic Consequences of Abortion Compared to*

There was an increased likelihood that families didn't have enough money to pay for basic family necessities like food, housing and transportation if pregnant people were denied an abortion. Women unable to terminate unwanted pregnancies were more likely to stay in contact with violent partners, putting them and their children at greater risk than if they had received the abortion.¹² Women forced to carry a pregnancy to term may also face diminished earnings, interference with their career advancement, disruption of their education, and fewer resources for children they already have.¹³

In conclusion, it is clear that House Bill 22-1047 is unconstitutional and would harm pregnant people by banning nearly all abortion care. The decision about whether, when, or how to become a parent is one of the most important life decisions we make. When people can make decisions throughout a pregnancy that are best for their lives, families thrive and we build communities where each of us can participate with dignity. The Law Center urges the Health and Insurance Committee not to advance House Bill 22-1047, which violates people's basic humanity, their rights, and their freedom.

Sincerely,

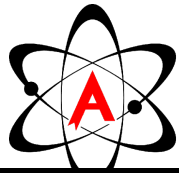


Heather Shumaker
Director of State Abortion Access
National Women's Law Center

Unwanted Birth (Oct. 30, 2012), <https://apha.confex.com/apha/140am/webprogram/Paper263858.html>; Diane Green Foster, et. al., *Socioeconomic Outcomes of Women Who Receive and Women Who Are Denied Wanting Abortions in the United States*, AM. PUB. HEALTH ASS'N. (March 2018), <https://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/10.2105/AJPH.2017.304247>.

¹² See *id.*

¹³ See Brief of Amici Curiae Nat'l Women's Law Ctr., *supra* note 10, at 36-37.



AMERICAN ATHEISTS

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Rep. Susan Lontine
Chair, House Health and Insurance Committee
Colorado State Capitol - Room HCR 0112
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, Colorado 80203-1784

Re: OPPOSE HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, Letter of Opposition from American Atheists regarding legislation that inserts politicians' religious views in patients' medical care

Dear Chairperson Lontine and Members of the House Health and Insurance Committee:

As a Colorado resident and volunteer for American Atheists, which has more than 1,300 constituents in Colorado, I write in opposition to HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, controversial bills that put politicians between patients and the doctors who provide their care. Bills like these perpetuate myths and lies about people who have abortions and the doctors who care for them. They undermine medical care for women and violate their individual rights. We urge you to reject these harmful bills.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the "wall of separation" between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation's communities and where casual bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. As advocates for the health, safety, and well-being of all Americans, American Atheists objects to efforts to subordinate medical care to the religious beliefs of politicians and others.

Polls consistently show that more than 6 in 10 Americans support legal access to abortion.¹ In Colorado, the Pew Research Center reports that 59% of adults believe that abortion should be available in all or most cases.² Despite this widespread support, some Colorado lawmakers are attempting to advance measure to criminalize abortion providers, restrict or ban access to health care, and create a disturbing database to track information about women obtaining abortion care. These bills are not about protecting women's health and well-being. They are about imposing a religious agenda on everyone else.

¹ Pew Research Center. (2019). Public Opinion on Abortion, 1995-2019. Available at <https://www.pewforum.org/fact-sheet/public-opinion-on-abortion/>.

² Pew Research Center. (2020). Do state laws on abortion reflect public opinion? Available at <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/01/21/do-state-laws-on-abortion-reflect-public-opinion/>.

Politicians have no place in the private lives of patients. Patients faced with difficult decisions need to have the ability to decide the type of compassionate care that is best for their family and their beliefs, just as they would be allowed to do at any other point in their child's life.

Every day, people across our country face the deeply personal decision of whether to continue their pregnancies. Consider Maureen's story.³ Maureen was receiving regular pregnancy health care services when she learned something was very wrong around 21 weeks, through a routine ultrasound. Maureen recalls:

After an agonizing wait, the doctors confirmed our worst fears, yes one leg was shorter than the other, but **Zoey also had tumors on her liver, half her vertebrae, and water on her brain.** Our daughter Zoey had VACTERAL Syndrome. Our daughter could make it to full-term, but she had a high chance of never leaving the hospital and not living to her 1st birthday.

My husband and I were utterly devastated and drove home in silence. My husband rushed through the house and removed all Zoey's baby items knowing they could only bring more pain in the grief. Our family came over to offer their support. **This was particularly hard for my father as a life-long Republican.** But, when we were faced with the reality of Zoey's situation and the facts of his own daughter's situation, **deep down he and we all knew this late-term abortion was morally the right choice for us.** Suddenly for our family, **it wasn't about religious doctrine or politics.** The issue was our family's flesh and blood, not an abstract ideology, it was about doing what we, as an entire family, felt was best for Zoey.

We all knew it would be a short, painful and cruel life for her. **My father lent us the money** to save Zoey a short life of pain and agony, so she could go in peace. We ultimately decided that day to terminate our pregnancy. It was our last parental decision, the hardest decision I and my husband have ever made. **It was a decision made with great compassion and love for a daughter we would never meet.**

Maureen's story is heartbreaking, and it provides an example of how each pregnancy and woman's circumstances is different -- some with a healthy desired pregnancy, some with a pregnancy that is unplanned, and some with severe health conditions that modern medicine cannot fix. Politicians should acknowledge the complexities of medical decisions and respect the autonomy of pregnant people and their families to make the decision that is morally and medically best for themselves, their family, and their beliefs.

Forcing others to give birth against their will is wrong. It is not always possible for a woman to get an abortion as soon as she would like. Many things can stand in her way, such as not being able to afford it, not realizing they are pregnant, travel distance to a clinic, restrictions that have been put in place, or health issues or a fetal diagnosis later in the pregnancy. Colorado lawmakers should be working to

³ From personal account by the individual, an Arizona woman, to American Atheists staff.

dismantle the legal barriers and obstacles that shame patients and keep them away from abortion care earlier in pregnancies, instead of finding new ways to impose their beliefs on women.

We strongly oppose HB 1047, 1075, and 1079 because they needlessly impose politicians' religious views into the private lives of pregnant people and the doctors who care for them. We urge you to reject these harmful bills. If you should have any questions regarding American Atheists' opposition to HB 1047, 1075, and 1079, please contact Brett Parker, American Atheists' State Policy Manager, at bparker@atheists.org.

Sincerely,

Sheryl Kallivrousis
Broomfield, Colorado

February 23, 2022

House Committee on Health & Insurance
Colorado General Assembly
200 E. Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Chair Lontine, Vice Chair Ortiz, and distinguished Members of the Committee:

Physicians for Reproductive Health (PRH) is a physician-led national advocacy organization working to ensure access to abortion care and equitable, comprehensive reproductive health care. Our network includes physicians of all specialties from across the country, including Colorado, committed to meeting the needs of the patients they serve.

As a network of physicians, we write in strong opposition to HB22-1047 and HB22-1079. These bills are not only attempts to cruelly ban abortion except in extremely limited circumstances, they subject providers serving their communities to severe penalties, and are grounded solely in political ideology, not medicine or science.

Whether patients in Colorado are ready to build or create their families, already parenting, or focused on their education or career, all of them share something in common – they are making thoughtful, at times difficult, decisions about their health and well-being and they deserve high quality health care, including abortion care, regardless of who they are, their income, and regardless of where they live.

Abortion bans like HB22-1047 and HB22-1079 are cruel and fall most heavily on those who already face the most barriers to care due to systematic injustices. Black people, Indigenous people, communities of color, people who are immigrants, young people, LGBTQ+ people, as well as those living in geographically isolated areas would bear the brunt of these bans at the expense of their dignity and at the expense of their health. Restrictions on abortion are rooted in white supremacy and further a shameful legacy of controlling the decision-making of people of color.

Abortion is health care, and it should not be singled out or banned. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), along with other medical societies, identifies abortion as an essential health care service that requires timely access to care. ACOG also explicitly recommends the repeal of legislation that imposes barriers to access and interferes with the patient-provider relationship, including abortion bans. Abortion is extremely safe and placing bans on abortion care does not make it any safer. In fact, in 2018, the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) published a comprehensive study affirming the safety record of abortion and pointed out that the biggest threat to patient safety is the litany of medically unnecessary abortion regulations that raise costs and delay procedures, ultimately putting patients' health at risk. They confirmed once again what we already know: bills like HB22-1047 and HB22-1079 do nothing to protect people, and only serve to jeopardize the health and well-being of people who are pregnant.

Banning nearly all abortion care in Colorado will have far reaching consequences both deepening existing inequities and worsening health outcomes for pregnant people and people giving birth. For example, studies have shown that women who were denied abortion care are more likely to experience high blood pressure and other serious medical conditions during the end of pregnancy; more likely to

remain in relationships where interpersonal violence is present; and more likely to experience poverty. Research shows that states with higher numbers of abortion restrictions are the same states with poorer maternal health outcomes. We also know that while most people will have healthy pregnancies, some will experience illnesses or conditions where pregnancy can cause serious problems or worsen existing health conditions. When abortion is made all but impossible to access, complicated health conditions can worsen and even result in death. It is disingenuous for supporters of this bill to claim that they care about the health and well-being of pregnant people in Colorado and in the same breath attempt to ban access to abortion in nearly all circumstances.

It is essential for this Committee to recognize that physicians are already bound by standards of care, medical ethics, and the law. This bill makes insulting assumptions about the professionalism of providers and disregards the extensive training they have undergone to provide the highest standards of medical care to the patients they serve. There are already many protections in place that dictate health care professionals must provide the best care possible to all of their patients, and there are already penalties for those who ignore these standards. Bills like HB22-1047 and HB22-1079 only serve to further stigmatize abortion care and are an attempt to criminalize and intimidate health care professionals providing necessary, high quality care to their communities.

Members of this Committee have an opportunity to ensure law and policy is based in sound science and medical evidence. Under no circumstances should Colorado politicians attempt to limit access to abortion care. Together, we can achieve a future where equitable access to reproductive health care is available to every Coloradan. PRH urges you to oppose HB22-1047 and HB22-1079.

To: Health and Insurance Committee
From: Kennedy McCarver, MA
Date: February 23, 2022
Re: Testimony in opposition to HB22-1047

Hello, I am Kennedy McCarver. I am currently a Clinical Psychology graduate student at the University of Denver, and I have lived in Colorado my entire life. I am writing this to testify in opposition to HB22-1047, Protecting Human Life at Conception. I am in opposition to this bill because it prevents women in Colorado from having access to life saving services from medical experts who are trained to administer such procedures.

According to The Blue Bench, an organization in Colorado aimed at ending sexual assault through prevention and care, 1 in 3 women in Colorado will experience sexual assault in their lifetime. According to the CDC, almost 3 million women in the US experience rape-related pregnancy. If this bill were to pass, it would mean that women who experience this type of violence will be even less likely to access safe abortions, putting them at risk of harm due to seeking an abortion by other means. This bill would intentionally punish licensed medical providers who serve to help women who experience rape-related pregnancy, taking away this resource from women who need this support the most. It is also important to note that according to the 2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Report, 10.1% of female students reported having been physically forced to have sexual intercourse when they did not want to have intercourse. It needs to be kept in mind that this bill does not only impact adult women seeking safe medical services, but teenage girls in Colorado who may also experience rape-related pregnancy who will have almost nowhere to turn for safe, medical help. This bill also disproportionately impacts multiracial women and women of color who are more likely to experience sexual violence in their lifetime. According to the National Center on Violence Against Women in the Black Community, 1 in 4 Black girls will be sexually abused before the age of 18 and 1 in 5 Black women are survivors of rape.

As a woman in Colorado, it leaves me with sadness and despair to know there are representatives willing to write legislation taking away a woman's right to safe medical care, even in the event she has experienced rape. Voting "yes" on this bill would take away the option to an abortion under the care of a medical provider for women who may ultimately be forced to give birth to a child they never chose to conceive and is the result of unwanted sexual assault. If not this option, then women who have experienced this type of violence will be forced to seek unsafe medical care to have an abortion, putting them at the risk of severe physical injury or death. According to the World Health Organization, unsafe abortion is a leading cause of maternal death and morbidities. To pass this bill would be actively taking part in increasing the already apparent lack of access to safe, timely, affordable, and respectful abortion care for woman in Colorado which is a human rights issue.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I urge you to vote NO on HB22-1047.

House Health & Insurance Committee
HB22-1047 Protecting Human Life At Conception
Wednesday, February 23, 2022

Honorable Chairperson Lontine and members of the Committee; my name is Ingrid Moore, from Longmont. I'm a concerned citizen speaking on my own behalf to **oppose** House Bill 22-1047.

This bill would create a felony, but not against the person seeking the abortion because that has proved to be distasteful to the public (it polls poorly politically). The new tactic is to impose felony sanctions against the person(s) assisting her. The "fiscal note assumes a high rate of compliance with the provisions of the bill." This will not result in fewer abortions, but rather will leave women (especially low-income women) without safe access to a private, personal medical procedure deemed safer than carrying a pregnancy to term.

- The bill offers no remedies for mitigating abortions.
- It proposes no programs or funding to provide family-planning assistance to those who need it so that possible abortions can be avoided.
- It proposes no ideas for working with colleagues on common ground for abortion-mitigation.

Instead, the proposed bill would cost the state more money while removing the control of their own lives from thousands of Colorado residents. The fiscal note estimates it will cost ~ \$100K over 5 yrs.

If the sponsors are really concerned about the unborn, they could propose other proven solutions that have been shown to, not only reduce abortions, but save money and lives.

An example of something that could be used as a model is The Colorado Family Planning Initiative. https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/sites/default/files/PSD_TitleX3_CFPI-Report.pdf

The privately-funded initiative ran from 2007-2014. The report lists dramatic results:

- *the state's teen birth and abortion rates were cut in half in just five years.*
- They estimated that a *total of \$66,063,664 to \$69,625,751 in [federal and state] entitlement program costs for Colorado women ages 15 to 24 and their infants were avoided from 2010 to 2014*

I'm not going to go down the rabbit-hole of arguing about when life begins. Obviously that question is not legally answerable, by either science or religion. This is the imposition of the personally held beliefs of a minority on others, criminalizing and canceling their rights of privacy and of self-determination.

I would support measures to fund such programs as listed above. But I cannot support this bill and its intent.

I respectfully ask that the members of the committee vote NO.