

Jody Simpson

From: Ann Rappoport <agrappoport@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 18, 2018 7:17 PM
To: Sen. David Wilson; Sen. Cathy Giessel; Sen. Natasha Von Imhof; Sen. Tom Begich; Sen. Peter Micciche
Cc: Rep. Jennifer Johnston
Subject: Please vote NO on SB 124 now!!

Dear Senate House and Social Services Committee –

I am sorry I am unable to testify in person about SB 124, a bill that would require physicians who induce or perform abortions to attempt to birth an unborn child so it can be put up for adoption. I am currently out of state visiting my son, but want you to know my views on this misguided bill.

I hope you saw the excellent February 5th editorial in the Anchorage Daily News:

<https://www.adn.com/opinions/2018/02/05/abhor-all-abortion-then-step-up-for-all-children/> where Sherry Lewis so wisely called out the full, unspoken consequences of those working to abolish legal access to abortions! Her comments document why Senator Giessel's proposed SB 124 is such a bad idea. Sherry asked whether those working so vehemently to prevent abortions are also so enthusiastically speaking up to adopt the babies who would instead need to be adopted. These babies would likely need hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical and social services care throughout their lives. That will be the expected fate of fetuses forced into an early birth, or who are born addicted to drugs through a drug addicted mother, who are born with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and subsequent learning, social, and emotional challenges, or those which may be brought up in an abusive, violent, or unloving atmosphere. Our Legislature has already significantly cut funding for health and social services – passing this bill would result in a huge unfunded mandate.

SB 124 offers no process for funding the likely tremendous costs of care for an early birth, or subsequent care and education for babies who may be drug or alcohol damaged. Nor is there any concern for the poor woman who would be forced to go through this trauma, after making a tremendously difficult decision to pursue an abortion.

Why is the Legislature considering a bill that will push the government into a woman's body and her most personal decision? Our State Constitution protects an individual's right to privacy, so the Legislature has no business altering a woman's decision that has resulted from an accident, a mistake, or is the result of an act of violence or other abuse. Your Committee time, and the time of the Legislature as a whole would be much better spent balancing our State budget, fully funding education for all our children, and addressing overall public safety, rather than on the personal issues of a few women. Shame on you if you vote to approve this bill. Please vote **no** on SB 124 now, and do not consider passing anything similar!

Sincerely, Ann Rappoport

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