

Students for Life Action Scoring Alert: Vote NO on S. 4132: *Women's Health "Protection" Act of 2022*

May 10th, 2022

Members of the United States Senate:

On behalf of our 1,200+ active groups and tens of thousands trained student activists across the nation, Students for Life Action urges you to vote NO on S. 4132, the *Women's Health "Protection" Act of 2022*. Your vote will be included in our Pro-Life Generation Scorecard for the 117th Congress.

Despite the reintroduction of last year's bill with slightly altered wording, the intent is still the same – to exceed the implications of *Roe v. Wade*, legalize unregulated abortion up until birth for any reason in all 50 states, and eradicate every state restriction on abortion violence. Additionally, this bill – **which we more accurately call the Women's Health Endangerment Act** – would strip states of their right to pass regulations on abortion, requiring new pro-life laws be approved by the Department of Justice before taking effect.

State laws that limit and regulate abortion are not "barriers to care." **They are essential safeguards that empower women to be well-informed and protect them from dangerous abortionists** like <u>Kermit Gosnell</u>, who have recklessly endangered and killed women. Popular pro-life protections such as basic health and safety standards for abortion facilities, informed consent laws, and late-term abortion limits would be null and void should the *Women's Health Endangerment Act* be passed into law.

Although this bill is promoted as an opportunity to empower women with "the right to choose" the violence of abortion, *it only aids the predatory abortion industry*, which benefits from increased abortions and less government oversight. Abortion facilities have already been caught <u>deceiving</u> and <u>forcing</u> women into having abortions, aiding <u>sexual predators</u>, failing to uphold <u>basic sanitary standards</u>, and utilizing <u>unqualified staff members</u> to provide medical services.

Abortions are serious and unnatural procedures that present a variety of potential risks. In contrast to this fact, the *Women's Health Endangerment Act* peddles abortion as one of the safest forms of medical treatment. But **pregnancy is not a condition to be cured**. In fact, the U.S. Supreme Court said, "Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life."

Abortion is undoubtedly <u>harmful</u> to women both physically and psychologically. Women who've had an abortion may experience heavy or persistent bleeding, severe pain or cramping, organ damage, fertility issues, breast cancer, infection, sepsis, and even death. Some of the mental repercussions of abortion include grief, regret, substance abuse, isolation, relationship issues, insomnia, nightmares, depression, and even suicide.

In addition to traumatizing women, the *Women's Health Endangerment Act* would lead to countless preborn lives lost. Since *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, **more than 63 million preborn babies have been killed by abortion**. Some existing state laws limit these tragedies by prohibiting discriminatory abortions on the basis of race, sex, and disability. Other laws take important factors like fetal pain and viability outside of the womb into

consideration. Should S. 4132 become law, these meager protections would be eradicated, and generations of Americans will suffer from abortion violence.

Furthermore, **this bill threatens the conscience rights of medical professionals**, mandating patients receive the abortion services they seek. This could lead to forced participation in abortions, regardless of whether a person believes abortion unjustly ends the life of an innocent human baby. The <u>Church Amendments</u>, which were passed in response to *Roe v. Wade*, prevent discrimination against medical professionals who choose not to participate in abortion services due to their moral or religious convictions. The *Women's Health Endangerment Act* could violate that, requiring medical professionals commit abortions at the risk of losing their job or funding.

We know that <u>7 in 10</u> Americans favor significant restrictions on abortion. Nearly half of those who consider themselves pro-choice agree abortion should have limits. Additionally, <u>3 out of 4</u> Millennial and Gen Z Americans oppose unrestrained abortions through all nine months of pregnancy. Clearly, most Americans on both sides of the abortion issue recognize that promoting limitless abortions is both dangerous and unnecessary.

The *Women's Health Endangerment Act* is a deceptive and irresponsible bill that harms everyone *but* the abortion industry. Both pro-life and pro-choice legislators must be able to agree that women deserve to be fully informed and protected when contemplating an abortion. Additionally, American medical professionals should be permitted to practice medicine that heals rather than destroys human life.

We are the Pro-Life Generation, so we **ask that you vote NO on S. 4132, the Women's Health Protection Act of 2022.** Your vote will be part of our scorecard that will be shared with our activists in all 50 states and the prolife community.

Sincerely,

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Kristan Hawkins President, Students for Life Action