My name is Jamie Burch Elliott, lobbyist for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa and Planned Parenthood North Central States. We are opposed to HF53, a measure that would force medical professionals to tell patients information that is not supported by science, including claiming there is the potential to reverse a medication abortion. Leading medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, do not support such measures, saying they are not supported by science and these unfounded legislative mandates represent dangerous political interference, while compromising patient care and safety. Doctors who fail to comply with this bill would be subject to disciplinary action being taken against their license.

The two-drug regimen of mifepristone and misoprostol for medication abortion has been safe and legal in the U.S. since the FDA approved its use almost 20 years ago. Since then, it has been used by more than 4 million people in the United States, with a well-documented safety record in more than 100 research publications. “Abortion reversal” is a medically inaccurate term that people opposed to abortion used to describe a medically unproven protocol in which a high dose of progesterone is given after the patient takes the first medication.

In December 2019, the journal *Obstetrics & Gynecology* published a new study addressing unproven claims of “abortion reversal” promoted by opponents of safe and legal abortion. This study was halted because women’s lives were put at risk and it was deemed too dangerous, showing us again that the unproven claims made by those who oppose safe and legal abortion are medically unsound and should not be the basis of laws or medical practice. The study offers no evidence for the unsupported idea that taking progesterone will interrupt and medication abortion. Instead, it provides more evidence that the current two-medication protocol is what works best for patients, and that interrupting that protocol based on unproven claims by groups who oppose abortion may create a risk for patients.

Forcing doctors and abortion providers to give their patients medically unfounded information is not only dangerous, it’s unethical. This bill inappropriately intrudes upon the vital physician/patient relationship and inserts politicians into people’s personal health care decisions. Planned Parenthood ensures all patients receive accurate information about all of their pregnancy options so they can make their own fully informed decisions about their health, their family and their future.

HF 53 is deeply concerning and will put the health and safety of Iowans at risk. Politicians with no medical expertise should not be interfering in medical care and pushing health care providers to experiment on people seeking abortion care. By suggesting there is a way to reverse a medication abortion, physicians would be undermining the informed consent process, which should instead stress to patients that they must be certain before proceeding with the first step of the medication abortion

process. For all of the reasons stated above, I urge you to vote against this dangerous measure and protect the health of Iowans and integrity of our health care system.