

My name is Jamie Burch Elliott, lobbyist for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Iowa and Planned Parenthood North Central States. I am submitting these comments in opposition to HSB 41.

It is disappointing that Rep. Holt has decided to only allow 30 minutes for this meeting today. This 30-minute meeting provides one of the only opportunities for Iowans to offer input on the proposed legislation. While the public could submit written comments, they were forced to endanger their safety and go to the Capitol during a tumultuous and dangerous time in American history to give in-person comments.

Iowans deserve better. They should safely be able to offer input on a bill that would for the first time ever take away their rights. Politicians in Des Moines should be focused on addressing the state's bungled response to the pandemic and social justice issues instead of wasting time trying to strip Iowans of their right and access to health care. Iowa's constitution has strong privacy protections that ensure our right to personal freedom. This amendment weakens those protections by opening the door for politicians to successfully pass burdensome, medically unnecessary restrictions on health care for Iowans.

This bill is nothing but a coordinated attempt to attack Iowans' health. It is one of the most extreme attacks in Iowa history. It is clear the true meaning of the bill is to attempt to ban abortion in Iowa.

By proposing this amendment, Iowa politicians are laying the groundwork to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* were to be overturned. The strongest protection for access to safe, legal abortion at the state level is when it is safeguarded by the Iowa Constitution. This legislation would pave the way for further restrictions on abortion care in Iowa for decades to come. This is not a hypothetical. Anti-abortion legislators in Iowa have already shown their intentions. Last year we saw politicians take action on an unprecedented number of anti-abortion legislation. In the past almost 10 years they have introduced at least 70 bills aimed at restricting Iowans access to safe and legal abortion.

Politicians need to step aside and trust and respect people to make the appropriate medical decisions for them and their family. Iowans deserve freedom from political interference in our personal lives, and we will not be fooled by politicians who want to insert themselves in what should be private health care decisions. Choosing whether and when to have children is a decision between a woman Iowan, their doctor, family and faith—not politicians in Des Moines.

Instead of limiting health care options, we need solutions that improve the health of Iowans and protect their right to make reproductive health care decisions that are best for their situation. If the proposed amendment passes, the Iowa Constitution would no longer protect a person's right to end a pregnancy under any circumstance, including when a pregnancy results from rape or incest or when the health of the pregnant person or life is in danger. No one wants to imagine such a scenario, but none of us can predict the future, and someday, a person you love may need access to abortion.