

A six-week fetal heartbeat abortion law will be a disaster for Iowa.

There is no fetal heartbeat at six weeks so scientifically and practically this bill makes no sense. Women often don't know they're pregnant until after six weeks so this bill essentially takes away their right to decide whether pregnancy is right for them. Unless they can afford to get to states that value women's reproductive rights--like Illinois or Minnesota--they will be forced by the state of Iowa to be pregnant no matter the circumstances, no matter their health situations, no matter their ages, no matter what they want. No forced vaccination in Iowa but forced gestation will be the law of the land.

This bill will drive doctors from Iowa. It is happening in other states where these bills have passed. It will hurt our top ranked university hospital and medical school. It will send many of our best students and professionals looking for other places to attend college, have careers, raise kids.

I know those of you pushing this bill don't think any of what I say is important or valid. You believe every fertilized egg deserves life. You don't think women have reproductive rights. You think your religious views are the only one that matters. Despite what polling tells you, you're going to ram this bill into law and make women conform to what you think is right. You are not interested in listening to the other side. Instead you'll continue to make it harder for those of us who disagree with you to vote. You'll redistrict, pass restrictive election laws, encourage people through threats or harassment or insults who don't agree with you to leave.

Still, I write. I don't think you and Kim Reynolds and your authoritarian Moms Against Women's Reproductive Liberty (and public school funding and reading and talking about sex and gender and race) are the future. You're the ugly past, resurfacing from the 1950s for one last gasp of power and privilege before the forces of history push you from governance.