

While 2011 and 2012 were the worst years on record for women's health in North Carolina and in the nation, Senate Bills 132, 308 and 675 signal that some politicians just weren't done chipping away at safe and legal abortion in our state when they passed one of the most demeaning, mandatory ultrasound laws in the country and banned Planned Parenthood from applying for grant money to provide family planning care to low-income women.

Taking a page out of the Mississippi playbook that has the state's last remaining abortion provider on the verge of closure, SB 308 includes a provision that doctors providing abortions at health centers have admitting privileges at a local hospital.

These bills are more of the same attempts to coerce and shame women. Just like last year, legislators are trying to insert themselves into a woman's personal, private medical decisions. These decisions should be made by a woman and her doctor, in consultation with her family and her faith, not by politicians.

**State legislators should hear us loud and clear: Decisions about pregnancy are personal. They can be complicated. They can be very difficult. And for many people, it's not a black and white issue. It's not for them to decide.**

- When it comes down to it, we just don't know a woman's specific situation. We're not in her shoes.
- Most things in life aren't simple. And that includes abortion.
- When it comes to abortion, who decides? Her state representative? Her Senator? You? Me?

**North Carolinians trust women to make their own personal, private health care decisions in consultation with their family, their faith and their doctor. But SB 308 goes too far in putting politicians in the middle.**

- Planned Parenthood's primary concern is for the health and safety of women in North Carolina. Abortion is already one of the safest procedures for women, and Planned Parenthood has rigorous safety guidelines in place to ensure women's health and safety.

**SB 132: Requires North Carolina schools to include information in the healthy living curriculum regarding preventable causes of preterm birth, including propaganda biased against abortion.**

- Not a single respected professional medical association recognizes a causal link between legal abortion and pre-term births.
- It's clear that the intent of this law is to spread misinformation in service to a political agenda, not to make North Carolina's children safer and healthier.

**SB 675: Requires written consent for minors seeking medical services for any of the following: substance abuse, mental illness, emotional disturbances, and pregnancy.**

- Sexually transmitted infections, mental health problems, pregnancy prevention and substance abuse are medical issues that require time-sensitive and appropriate care. If left untreated, all of these conditions may lead to life-threatening situations.
- Public health policies should always encourage adolescents to seek timely, professional health care—not impede access to confidential care. This is why the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists **oppose** mandatory parental involvement laws.

**2011 and 2012 were the worst years on record for women's health in North Carolina—it's time for legislators to focus on issues that unite, rather than divide, our state.**

- This anti women's health agenda goes too far – and has already led to costly litigation for the state.