

## FACTS AND FICTION REGARDING THE NEW ABORTION LAW IN SD HB 1217

### FICTION:

South Dakota citizens have voted on this twice before. Why are we bringing it up again when the people have spoken.

FACT: HB 1217 is a completely different law. It does not outlaw abortion. It's prime purpose is to protect women from coerced abortion and provide more information regarding abortion, and their unborn child so they can make a more informed decision.

### FICTION:

HB 1217 is an intrusion on women's rights. It's government interference in their private decisions.

FACT: HB 1217 is written to protect women's rights. It is based on testimony by Planned Parenthood personnel that they have no counselors with any training or medical or nursing background qualified to assess a woman's risk factors in abortion. They do not have the ability to screen for coercion, and the doctor never meets for a consultation or examination prior to making an appointment to make a determination on medical necessity. No woman should be forced against her will to abort her unborn child. Countless women testified to the abortion task force and before the SD legislature that they were coerced and received no screening prior to their abortion. The government has a responsibility to protect innocent human life, and require adequate medical standards for all surgeries.

### FICTION:

HB 1217 consists of coercion of women to receive information they don't want to hear at pregnancy help centers. This is just another form of coercion.

### FACT:

The law requires the woman to see the abortion doctor at least 72 hours prior to her abortion to screen for risks factors and coercion. A follow up visit with a pregnancy care center is required to answer any further questions and to further determine if there is any coercion involved to abort her child. If a woman verifies there is no coercion to the abortionist and at the pregnancy care center, she can refuse any counseling or any information they offer and make her appointment for her abortion.

FICTION:

HB 1217 places an undue burden on women waiting 72 hours before an abortion.

FACT:

Abortion is a life and death decision. It is not an emergency. It's the only surgery done that is not due to trauma, infection or disease. Due to the magnitude of this decision it should never be based on fear, panic, or coercion or ignorance. Women deserve as much information as possible in a non-threatening environment to answer any questions they have. The law requires 72 hours to purchase real estate and other major purchases. Human life is more important than real estate. Many women testified if they had a pregnancy care center to talk to they would have a child now because they did not want to abort but didn't realize the development of their child, and didn't know there were people who cared and could offer assistance at this difficult time in their lives.

FICTION:

HB 1217 is Unconstitutional.

FACT:

Federal law has established that every woman has a constitutionally protected relationship with her child as in adoption. Government regulation requires guidelines to be followed before any mother can release her child for adoption. Nobody can force an adoption or bribe for an adoption, nor does the constitution allow for forced abortion. HB 1217 is written to clarify that the Constitution protects women from coerced abortion and protects her relationship with her child.

FICTION:

The taxpayers of SD should not have to fund a lawsuit filed by the ACLU or Planned Parenthood. It will cost the state of SD a lot of money.

FACT:

Actually the SD legislature in 2008 established a pro-life litigation sub-fund for private citizens to donate to regarding this issue. That fund is receiving donations every week from people who care about women and the unborn. Commitments have already been made to fund a lawsuit should it occur. It's ironic how abortion proponents have no problem with taxpayer funded abortion, and taxpayers paying for condoms, and taxpayers paying for the consequences of unhealthy choices, but they cry foul if tax dollars are ever used to save human life and to protect the women of SD. SD has a fine for killing a hen pheasant, but no fine for destroying unborn children. A million dollars pays for one mile of highway. If HB 1217 would save 500 children and protect the women of SD from coercion, it should be an investment in protecting our greatest resource - our people.

FICTION:

HB 1217 is a violation of Separation of Church and State.

FACT:

HB 1217 simply protects women from coerced abortion and allows for them time to contemplate this important decision and receive as much information as possible if they want it. Women are not judged or condemned at the pregnancy care center. They are only asked if there is any coercion regarding their decision. They are told about the services offered at a pregnancy care center. They must give consent to receive information, or a FREE ultrasound or other services. If they do not want to receive any further information they have the option to leave after they have verified there is no coercion.

FICTION:

Pregnancy Care Centers are unlicensed and unregulated and do not have any trained personnel.

FACT:

Pregnancy care centers are affiliated with National professional organizations such as CareNet or NIFLA which have guidelines and training. All client advocates must complete a stringent training program. All services are FREE so there is no conflict of interest. Most offer FREE ultrasound services with certified technicians, and they are affiliated with dozens of medical doctors throughout the state to answer any medical questions for young women. All information is kept confidential, and the abortion doctor has the option to agree or disagree if a woman tells the pregnancy care center she is being coerced.