



## Talking Points on Legislation That Dismantles Pro-Life Protections

**Bill:** SB 733; HB 980

**Patron:** Senator McClellan; Delegate Herring

**Status:** January 29: Senate passed SB 733 with Lt. Gov. Fairfax breaking tie vote (20-Y 20-N)  
January 28: House passed HB 980 (52-Y 45-N)

**Conference position:** Oppose

**Description:** These bills would repeal health and safety protections at abortion facilities, allow non-physicians to perform first-trimester abortions, and severely roll back essential informed consent requirements, including the opportunity to view an ultrasound.

### Talking Points to Legislators:

#### Abortion Center Regulations

- Abortion is not “health care” because it ends lives instead of healing them, but as long as the abortion industry is allowed to operate within the health care system it must be required to adhere to well-defined health and safety standards.
- Virginia's abortion centers must be licensed, regulated and inspected to protect women's health and safety.
- The regulations already in place by the Department of Health are reasonable, common sense measures to ensure that life-saving equipment is on hand, infections are prevented and clear written policies and building guidelines are in place.

#### Allowing Non-Physician Abortions:

- Increasing access to abortion by allowing non-physicians to perform first-trimester abortions will likely increase the number of abortions in Virginia. The goal of state policy should be less abortions, not more.
- Nurse practitioners and physician assistants do not have the same level of medical training and expertise as physicians.
- Physicians are far better equipped to manage post-abortion complications, which could be life-threatening or affect a women's ability to have children in the future.



## **Informed Consent**

- Informed consent gives women truthful information before they make a life-altering decision.
- Conducting an ultrasound is important to determine the gestational age of the unborn child.
- Enabling informed consent is one of a doctor's most fundamental obligations, and the principle of informed consent should apply no less to abortion than to any other procedure.
- Removing Virginia's current informed consent provisions would deprive women of critical information before the abortion is performed, such as a medical explanation of the procedure, the offer to speak with a physician to answer any questions, the gestational age of the fetus and the offer to review printed materials and alternatives.

*Women who are seeking abortions are in a vulnerable position and may be unaware of the full scope of impacts that this decision may have. Abortion is undeniably a life-changing decision which can result in serious medical complications. Taking away accountability of abortionists makes these already vulnerable women more vulnerable to harm. These bills prioritize the abortion industry and convenience over women's physical and mental health.*