



PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

- A Woman's Place
- AAUW Doylestown Branch
- AAUW Levittown-Lower Bucks Branch
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Bucks County
- Bucks County Area Agency on Aging
- Bucks County Commissioners' Advisory Council for Women
- Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission, Inc.
- Bucks County Housing Group
- Bucks County Intermediate Unit #22
- Bucks County Opportunity Council
- Bucks County Workforce Development Board, Inc.
- BuxMont Unitarian Universalist Peace and Justice Committee
- Child, Home & Community
- Delaware Valley Association for the Education of Young Children
- Family Service Association of Bucks County
- Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania
- Interfaith Community of Lower Bucks
- Keystone Progress
- LaVO Design
- League of Women Voters of Bucks County
- Libertae
- Makefield Area Action Fund of AAUW
- Maternity Care Coalition
- NAACP, Bucks County Branch
- National Council of Jewish Women – PA
- Network of Victim Assistance PathWays PA
- Planned Parenthood Keystone
- Public Citizens for Children and Youth
- Quality Child Care Coalition of Bucks County
- Sircely Marketing & Design
- Soroptimist International of Bucks County
- The Council of Southeast Pennsylvania
- The Peace Center
- Women's Center of Montgomery County
- YWCA Bucks County

PARTNER INDIVIDUALS

More Than 180 Individual Partners and Growing

RE: SB3

Dear Senators McIlhinney, Tomlinson, Greenleaf, and Mensch:

Many of us from the coalition who watched the Judiciary Committee meeting on SB 3 yesterday were appalled at the speed and apparent willful ignorance with which Senators voted to approve the bill for the Senate's consideration. They rejected Senator Farnese's motion to table the bill until hearings were held, a normal procedure for such a controversial topics. The primary sponsor of the bill declined an invitation to appear at the hearing and does not have the bill posted on her website. Why the rush and why the seeming reluctance to take ownership of a bill that will significantly impact the women and families of PA?

It is a fact that severe anomalies of fetuses are usually not discovered until the 20-week ultrasound; for example, this bill would prohibit a woman who discovers that her fetus has lethal spinal dysplasia (a disease which prohibits the formation of the thorax and, therefore, the lungs.) from terminating her pregnancy. She would be forced to continue the pregnancy until the fetus actually died in the womb or subject her to a still birth. The men who passed that law out of committee have no idea of the psychological, physical, and emotional damage that forcing a woman to carry an unviable fetus to term causes. How can they? But they proceeded in their ignorance anyway.

Nor does Senator Brooks's office seem to understand the implications of this bill. Senator Brooks's aide proudly told one of our concerned callers that she had a 22-week premature birth and her daughter is 30. She obviously had no idea what our member was talking about.

We are shocked that senators are ignoring the medical community that overwhelmingly concludes that a D & E is the safest procedure for the woman and often used after a miscarriage. How are they to safely care for their patients? Viability is currently considered to be 24 weeks after the last menstrual period. Only 1.2 % of abortions in PA occur after the 20th week of pregnancy. The bill uses the term "dismemberment" which is not a medically accepted term. There is also no evidence that a fetus feels pain at 20 weeks. Where did they get the alternate facts they referred to at the meeting? Certainly not from the medical community because they refused to hear from them.

This bill punishes those 1.2% of women in PA who face one of the most devastating blows for a woman. This bill will punish women by forcing them to carry an unviable fetus and will deny them a procedure that prevents infection and ensures that future ability to reproduce is not compromised. This bill even goes so far as to prohibit scissors in the operating room. How can politicians dare to dictate medical procedure to trained physicians?

Please at least hear the personal stories of 1.2% of women in PA and listen to the medical community before you rush to pass a bill with such grave consequences. U of P has an eminent fetal medicine and family planning department. Bring them in to gain knowledge of the consequences of your actions. Vote NO!

Sincerely,

President BCWAC

Health & Safety Committee Member