

Dear Esteemed Congressperson.

Re: Reproductive Health Equity Act (HB22-1279)

I am Dr. Cara Brown, from Johnstown, CO, a double boarded certified in Family and Adolescent medicine — only 2 of us in the state with both these certifications and the only woman. All other adolescent specialists in Colorado are pediatricians who do not have the obstetric and gynecologic training that I have. Thus, I bring a perspective on adolescent gynecologic health like no other in the state.

You want a Prochoice bill that protects the healthcare rights of our women? I get it!! I want to protect women's rights, too but this bill does the opposite. This bill lacks protections for our most vulnerable, our teens and SEX trafficked women who are most often minors.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, 31 % of pregnant teens choose abortion. And teens are often brought by their abusive boyfriends or manipulative perpetrators for their abortion appointments. Many feel like they cannot talk to their parents and many meet the state statutes for statutory rape. Their abortion visit is likely the only contact with the system that allows these young women to be identified and offered help but this bill requires no opportunity for those that.

In addition, It is not uncommon for sex trafficking victims to become pregnant, and the vast majority are brought for an abortion by their trafficker. A law like this that removes all barriers to abortion actually ends up facilitating the ongoing exploitation of young women in SEX trafficking. When these women come for an abortion, this may be the only opportunity to be identified and escape from trafficking. This bill opens Colorado up to be the safe haven for traffickers.

This congress must not let the bill go forward as currently written. It is on your shoulders to put in place the protections that our most vulnerable need.

Colorado is a blue state which represents compassion and care for our vulnerable. We cannot let our beautiful state become the haven that every trafficker flocks to when the women they are selling become pregnant.

Please stop this travesty, protect our teens, stop this bill as written and put in place the protections that allow for these women to be identified and helped.

Sincerely,



Cara Brown, MD

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