

May 3, 2016



Honorable Rick Jones, Chair  
Michigan Senate Judiciary Committee  
Farnum Office Building  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Sen. Jones and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

The American Association of University Women of Michigan, in keeping with its national Public Policy Program to support choice in the determination of one's reproductive life, **opposes HB 4787 and 4830** for the following reasons:

- Michigan's existing informed consent law already requires that a woman's consent to abortion must be given freely without coercion. These bills are duplicative and unnecessary.
- In other states with these anti-coercion laws, the anti-abortion organizations posing as crisis pregnancy centers acquire the name of the pregnant women coming to them for a free pregnancy test. Then they notify clinics providing abortions in the region that the pregnant woman does not want an abortion and threatens the clinic or doctor with reporting them for prosecution under the abortion coercion law if the pregnant woman comes to them for an abortion. These anti-abortion organizations posing as crisis pregnancy centers are totally unregulated in Michigan. Without a regulatory structure to control the conduct of crisis pregnancy centers, these bills are a recipe for invasion of women's medical privacy and further harassment of pregnant women and women's health care clinics. We suggest the following amendment or something similar:

**SEC. 213B. A PERSON HAVING ACTUAL KNOWLEDGE THAT A FEMALE INDIVIDUAL IS PREGNANT SHALL NOT USE THAT KNOWLEDGE TO INTERFERE WITH THE PREGNANT FEMALE'S DECISIONS ABOUT HER FUTURE HEALTH CARE RELATED TO THE PREGNANCY.**

- These bills are one-sided in that they criminalize only coercion to terminate a pregnancy rather than even-handedly covering the whole array of reproductive coercion including coercion of a woman to get pregnant or stay pregnant. Birth control sabotage such as disposing of a woman's birth control pills and men refusing to wear protection during intercourse are common occurrences not covered by these bills.

The AAUW's goal is to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Mary Pollock  
Government Relations Coordinator