



Messaging Resource: Abortion Pill Reversal

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We have seen a slew of policies over the years that seek to push medically unnecessary limitations on abortion care – not because it will promote health or safety – but with the intention of making care harder to get and harder to provide. We know that when any health service is made more expensive or access is limited it falls hardest on low-income women and women of color. Special requirements that could close clinics also make it harder for people in rural areas of the state who may already struggle with a lack of availability of the full range of reproductive healthcare, including abortion.

These laws require doctors to provide medically inaccurate information to patients before administering a medication abortion, indicating that it is possible to reverse the abortion procedure and continue the pregnancy if they change their mind after taking the initial mifepristone pill.

Looking at the so-called research on the idea of reversing medication abortion shows that this is a refuted theory based on the anecdotal experiences of physicians who were willing to do experimental treatment on pregnant women, without the usual research safeguards to protect their health and safety.

Key Themes

- Putting health and safety before political agendas.
- Political interference.

Messengers

- Health professionals who can discuss the fact that politicians should not meddle with medical care and oppose junk science
- Academics/researchers who can counter the methodology

- Advocates who can talk about the need to ensure women are given accurate, respectful counseling – not incorrect information

Framing Statements:

- Bills like this one not only push disproven information, but also perpetuate the idea that women do not carefully consider their decision to seek an abortion.
- Many lawmakers who want to limit access to abortion push bills using junk science and perpetuating stigma on people who seek or provide abortion.
- We support giving all of the information that a person might need to make a decision about their options, but that should not include medically inaccurate or disproven claims designed to shame people.
- There are no credible scientific studies on the idea of reversing a medication abortion, so it is not supporting women to push this information and it is inappropriate to require doctors to lie to their patients.
- We should not put doctors in the position to lie to their patients. Politicians should not push laws that deny the best standard of care to anyone seeking health services.
- We support research that helps to meet the needs of women and families, but we do not support pushing medically inaccurate information on disproven studies. That is dangerous, disrespectful and just plain unacceptable.
- We can support giving people information and support when considering their options, but we will not allow politicians to push personal agendas to stigmatize abortion by risking the health of women in our community.
- The decision of whether to choose adoption, seek abortion or become a parent are important and people should be given all of the information and support that they need. They should not be lied to.