

# HB136 Abortion Amendments - Rep. Cheryl Acton

It's time to remember that the first thing we all belong to is humanity.

Alexander Scholzenitsyn

# Consideration #1 Legitimate State Interests

As stated in the majority opinion in Roe v. Wade, the State (of Utah) "has <u>legitimate interests</u> in protecting both the pregnant woman's health and the potentiality of human life, each of which interests grows and reaches a 'compelling' point at various stages of the woman's approach to term." Roe v. Wade, 410 U.S. 113, 162 (1973)

#### **Consideration #2** Serious Post-Abortive Consequences

The "medical, emotional, and psychological consequences of abortion are serious and can be lasting ..." H.L. v. Matheson, 450 U.S. 398, 411 (1981).L. Bartlett et al., Risk factors for legal induced abortion mortality in the United States, Obstetrics and Gynecology 103(4):729 (2004).

# ♦Risks to Women's Physical Health

Women who undergo D&E abortion are subject to many physical risks, such as hemorrhage, uterine and cervical laceration, blood clots, pulmonary embolism, amniotic fluid embolism, hysterectomy, and death. University of Michigan Medicine, Dilation and Evacuation, <a href="https://uofmhealth.org/health-library/tw2462">https://uofmhealth.org/health-library/tw2462</a>,

#### ♦Risks to Women's Mental / Emotional Health

More than 102 peer-reviewed studies published in international medical journals...suggest an association between abortion and adverse mental health outcomes....A study in the British Journal of Psychiatry found an 81% increased risk of mental trauma after abortion. A Road Map Through the Supreme Court's Back Alley, Issues in Law & Medicine. Fall2018, Vol. 33 Issue 2, p175-205. 31p.

# **♦**Abortion Significantly Increases Risk of Suicide

A study from Finland found a more than three-fold increase in risk of suicide after induced abortion. Judge Gruender (U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8<sup>th</sup> Circuit) noted that "even the evidence relied upon by Planned Parenthood acknowledges a significant, known statistical correlation between abortion and suicide." A Road Map Through the Supreme Court's Back Alley, Issues in Law & Medicine. Fall2018, Vol. 33 Issue 2, p175-205. 31p.

#### **♦**Abortion Poses Serious Risks to Future Fertility

In 2009, three systematic evidence reviews were published that found an increased risk of pre-term birth after abortion. Placenta previa is also greatly increased.

A 2007 study in the Journal of Reproductive Medicine concluded that complications of pre-term birth after induced abortion for mother and child cost an estimated \$1.2 billion in annual health care costs. A Road Map Through the Supreme Court's Back Alley, Issues in Law & Medicine. Fall2018, Vol. 33 Issue 2, p175-205. 31p.

#### ♦ Abortion Risks for Women Increase with Gestational Age

Abortion-related mortality increases with each week of gestation https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Practice-Bulletins/Committee-on-Practice-Bulletins-Gynecology/Second-Trimester-Abortion

#### Consideration #3 Fetal Pain Perception

- "It is universally accepted that the simplest neural circuitry required to detect and respond to pain is in place by 8-10 weeks....What is not universally accepted is at what point in development the ability to detect and respond to pain becomes psychologically and emotionally meaningful—both to the fetus and to society....Connections between the spinal cord and subcortical structures in the thalamus... are completed by 18 weeks." The Development of Human Fetal Pain Perception, Maureen L. Condic, University of Utah School of Medicine, Department of Neurobiology and Anatomy 29 August 2015
- "The human fetus can mount substantial stress responses. These have been shown... by examining stress hormone levels in the blood...before and after invasive procedure... the redistribution of blood flow within the fetus.... a significant fall in the pulsatility index .... These responses have been found at all gestations studied from as early as 16 weeks." https://obgyn.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/j.1471-0528.1999.tb08424.x

# Consideration #4 Dismemberment Procedure

The procedure employed in 95% of second trimester abortions involves the dismemberment and crushing of a living fetus, the allowance of which, for elective reasons, stands in sharp contrast with other statutes concerning the treatment of human life, including deceased human life, making it desirable to limit elective abortion to earlier stages of pregnancy. https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Practice-Bulletins/Committee-on-Practice-Bulletins-Gynecology/Second Trimester-Abortion?IsMobileSet=false -

For example, Utah Code 76-9-704 Abuse or desecration of a dead human body -- Penalties. ... (2) A person is guilty of abuse or desecration of a dead human body if the person intentionally and unlawfully: ...(b) disturbs, moves, removes, conceals, or destroys a dead human body or any part of it; ...(d) <u>dismembers</u> a dead human body to <u>any</u> extent, or damages or <u>detaches</u> any part or portion of a dead human body:

# Consideration #5 Preserves Right to Abortion

<u>HB136 preserves a woman's right to have an elective abortion</u>, while limiting gestational age to 18 weeks.

#### Consideration #6 International/Western European Limits on Abortion

Though some consider 18 weeks restrictive, the limit is <u>several weeks longer</u> than abortion limits in most of the world's countries, including most Western European countries. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHrihwWJv80">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IHrihwWJv80</a>

# Consideration #7 Preserves Five Exceptions / Adds One Additional Exception

HB136 preserves in code all of the exceptions allowing abortion after 18 weeks (briefly: life of the mother, permanent impairment of the mother, rape, incest, and fatal fetal defect), while adding one additional exception for a severe brain abnormality that is uniformly diagnosable and would cause the unborn child to live in a mentally vegetative state. "Severe brain abnormality" does not include: Down syndrome; spina bifida; or any other malformation, defect, or condition that does not cause an individual to live in a mentally vegetative state.

#### Consideration #8 Cost

HB136 has a fiscal note of \$0. In-house attorneys from the AG's office will defend the bill if/when it is challenged. No cost at all if we win a court challenge.

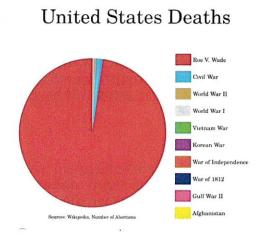
#### **Consideration #9** States Approach Abortion Differently

NY and VA have the abortion laws they want. Utah should be able to enact reasonable abortion laws that reflect the will of the people of our state.

#### Consideration #10 Utah Has a Culture of Life

Utah, with the nation's highest birthrate, <u>should be the safest place in the nation</u> for women and children (for all people, really), born and unborn.

In 2017 Utah had 2,973 abortions. The total for the US in 2017 is estimated at 881,000. The total number of abortions worldwide in 2014 is estimated at 56 million. (Guttmacher Institute)



Explanation of Pie Chart		
	Civil War	750,000
	WWII	405,399
	WWI	116,516
	Vietnam	58,209
	Korea	54,246
	Revolution	25,000
	War of 1812	15,000
	Gulf War	4,500
	Afghanistan	2,216
	Total deaths in these wars:	1,431,086
	Ttl US abortions since Roe	46,000,000 +