

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2009
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB675

Hearing Date: Thursday March 05, 2009
Committee On: Judiciary
Introducer: Fulton
One Liner: Provide for additional voluntary and informed consents from a woman prior to abortion

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	6	Senators Ashford, Christensen, Coash, Lathrop, Lautenbaugh, Rogert
Nay:	1	Senator Council
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:	1	Senator McGill

Proponents:

Sen. Tony Fulton
Mary Spaulding Balch
Deborah Tenopir
Jackie Delgado
Mary Ann Chladek
Al Riskowski
Denny Hartford
Greg Schleppenbach
Dave Bydalek
John Lillis

Representing:

Introducer
National Right to Life; NE Right to Life
Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center
Lincoln Crisis Pregnancy Center
A Woman's Touch PCC, Bellevue
Nebraska Family Council
Vital Signs Ministries (Director)
Nebraska Catholic Conference
Family First
Nebraskans United for Life

Opponents:

Celine Mizrahi
Laurel Marsh
Rosemary Esseks
Sara Juster

Bobbie Kierstead
Earl Barnawell

Representing:

Center for Reproductive Rights
ACLU Nebraska
Nebraska Psychological Association
NE Methodist Health System; NE Methodist Hospital;
Methodist Physicians Clinic
Planned Parenthood of NE/Council Bluffs
self

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

Legislative Bill 675 would amend several statutes regarding abortion. Definitions of "woman" and "ultrasound" would be added to the statutes. The informed consent provision requiring the woman to be told about the medical risks associated with abortion would be expanded to include additional risks including psychological trauma, endometritis, perforated uterus, incomplete abortion, and failed abortion. Another provision would be added to the informed consent section to require that the woman be told that she cannot be forced to get the abortion by anyone and is free to withhold or withdraw her consent without affecting her right to future care or treatment and without the loss of benefits to which she would otherwise be entitled. In addition, the woman must be told of her right to request a list of places she can get a

free ultrasound. The woman must be provided with the list upon request. The bill further provides that if an ultrasound is performed, that it be done at least one hour prior to the abortion and that the ultrasound image be displayed such that it is viewable by the woman, should she choose to view it. Additionally, if the woman requests a medical description of the ultrasound image, a detailed description must be provided. Finally, the bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to publish a list of the names and contact information for facilities that offer free ultrasounds.

Explanation of amendments:

Committee Amendment AM 994 would strike psychological trauma, endometritis, incomplete abortion, and failed abortion from the list of medical risks associated with abortion that must be explained to the woman prior to the abortion procedure. The amendment would clarify language regarding the list of facilities where a woman can get a free ultrasound. The amendment would add a requirement that the woman be informed that the ultrasound images will be displayed so she is able to view them. The amendment would strike language providing that the woman can not be prevented from averting her eyes from the ultrasound images and would replace it with language providing that the woman can not be required to view the ultrasound images.

Brad Ashford, Chairperson