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DATE 2/18/2011
HB 544

February 18, 2011

Mr. Chairman and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

Montana Women Vote would like to express our opposition to HB 544 sponsored by Rep. Michael Moore. This bill attempts to put our state government in the doctor's office with a woman and her medical provider. This bill will take decisions about medical care out of the hands of licensed medical providers, those who are most knowledgeable about the needs of their patients.

Numerous peer-reviewed studies have revealed no adverse psychological effects stemming from the decision to terminate a pregnancy and this bill works to fix a problem that doesn't exist. It will however, create barriers to women's reproductive health. We need to trust women to make decisions about the reproductive health needs.

HB 544 is unprecedented because it would be the only place in statute that clinical practices and standards for a specific medical procedure are embedded in MT Code. This bill is also an unfunded mandate that will make access to safe, affordable reproductive health care harder to obtain for low-income women across Montana.

We respectfully oppose this legislation.

Sincerely,

Olivia Riutta
Outreach Director
(406) 543-3550
Olivia@montanawomenvote.org