

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN  
LT. GOVERNOR

April 30, 2015

The Honorable Linda McCulloch  
Secretary of State  
State Capitol  
Helena, MT 59620

Dear Secretary McCulloch:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto House Bill 479 (HB 479) "AN ACT PROVIDING REQUIREMENTS FOR FETAL SURGERY; REQUIRING THE DETERMINATION OF THE GESTATIONAL AGE OF AN UNBORN CHILD PRIOR TO FETAL SURGERY; REQUIRING THE ADMINISTRATION OF FETAL ANESTHESIA; REQUIRING FACILITIES TO REPORT ON THE USE OF FETAL ANESTHESIA IN ABORTIONS; PROVIDING EXCEPTIONS; PROVIDING DEFINITIONS; PROVIDING A PENALTY; AND AMENDING SECTION 50-20-110, MCA."

As a father, husband, and son, I stand firmly opposed to restrictions on a woman's ability to make deeply personal medical decisions in consultation with her medical provider, family members, and spiritual leaders. Unfortunately, HB 479 is part of a series of extreme bills that prioritizes political ideology over sound health care policy.

Like HB 587 before it, HB 479 attempts to substitute the Legislature's beliefs for the sound medical judgments of Montana's health care professionals and the private medical decisions of their patients.

For these reasons, I veto HB 479.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", written over a horizontal line.

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor

Enclosure

cc: Legislative Services Division  
Austin Knudsen, Speaker of the House  
Debby Barrett, President of the Senate