

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY
LT. GOVERNOR

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Corey Stapleton
Secretary of State
State Capitol
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Secretary Stapleton:

In accordance with the power vested in me as Governor by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Montana, I hereby veto Senate Bill 354 (SB 354), "AN ACT ADOPTING THE MONTANA BORN-ALIVE INFANT PROTECTION ACT; PROVIDING THAT VIABLE, BORN-ALIVE INFANTS MAY NOT BE DEPRIVED OF MEDICALLY APPROPRIATE AND REASONABLE MEDICAL TREATMENT; PROVIDING PENALTIES; REPEALING SECTION 50-20-108, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

Senate Bill 354 is a reflection of a divisive national debate that has little to do with the health of infants or women. Federal law already provides for protections and medical care for infants. *See* Born-Alive Infants Protection Act of 2002 ("BAIPA" Pub.L. 107-207, 116 Stat. 926, enacted August 5, 2002, 1 U.S.C. § 8).

The situation SB 354 purportedly seeks to address is a medical practice that does not exist. This bill does nothing more than politicize decisions that are deeply personal and medically complex. I believe women, families and health care providers are best able to make these difficult medical decisions without political interference that is meant only to inflame and cause division.

For these reasons, I veto SB 354.

Sincerely,

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

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor

cc: Legislative Services Division
Scott Sales, President of the Senate
Greg Hertz, Speaker of the House