



January 22, 2020

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To: Senators Robinson, Embry, Carroll, Clark, Harper Angel, Harris, Higdon, Humphries, Parrett, Schroder, Smith, Westerfield, Wilson, and Wise (*via email*)

**Re: Senate Bill 9**

Senators,

We write to express our concerns with and opposition to SB9, which will be heard before the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee tomorrow, January 23.

As you know, our organization consistently opposes legislation introduced in the General Assembly to restrict abortion access and erode the constitutionally-protected right for patients to access this care. It should come as no surprise, then, that we oppose SB9, and ask you to vote no on this unnecessary and dangerous piece of legislation.

You have heard me testify about these issues before, but they are important enough to be repeated. Nearly one in four women will have an abortion before the age of 45. Three-quarters of all patients who obtain an abortion are living at or near the poverty line. And nearly two-thirds of patients who obtain an abortion already have at least one child. Whether you are aware of it or not, chances are very good that you know, perhaps even love, someone in your life who has had an abortion.

Abortion is and always has been necessary, and Kentuckians must be able to avail themselves of this care, regardless of the personal opposition our elected officials may have to this procedure. And low-income patients, as always, are hit especially hard by restrictions and barriers to access. For all these reasons, we have persistently opposed the abortion bans and restrictions that are introduced in our General Assembly.

SB9 is yet another legislative attempt to make abortions harder to access, and to criminalize the work that dedicated doctors do to provide this safe, legal, constitutionally-protected care. Senate Bill 9 has nothing to do with how abortion care actually works and is based on false claims. Bills like these perpetuate myths and lies



about abortion care, patients who receive this care, and the doctors who care for them.

Of course, you are well aware that many of Kentucky's recent attempts to limit, restrict, or outright ban abortions are caught up in the courts while challenges to these unconstitutional laws are being litigated. We urge you to resist any further bills of this nature. The Kentucky General Assembly, as well as other state legislatures, have done their part to raise a myriad of issues that the courts are now considering. We ask you to let them do their job before pushing through any further abortion bans and restrictions.

For all these reasons, we ask that you vote no on SB9.

Sincerely,

Kate Miller  
Advocacy Director