March 3, 2020

Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

The Kentucky General Assembly remains committed to making abortion completely inaccessible to all Kentuckians, regardless of their circumstances.

Year after year, you continue to pass legislation to force people to remain pregnant against their will. You consistently reject modest proposals to provide any exceptions to:

- Kentuckians who have become pregnant as a result of rape,
- Kentuckians (including children) who have become pregnant as a result of incest,
- Kentuckians who were coerced into pregnancy by a violent and abusive partner,
- Kentuckians who have experienced a serious fetal diagnosis; and
- Kentuckians who have pregnancy-related complications that put their own lives at risk.

You know where the ACLU stands on abortion access. We believe that decisions about pregnancy are personal and can be complicated and the best person to make that decision is the pregnant person.

HB 451 and HB 370 are simply two more bills in the General Assembly’s quest to make it as difficult as possible for Kentuckians to access abortion.

HB 370 puts another burden onto the only abortion provider in the state in an attempt to push them to close their doors. Again, it provides no exceptions so even families mourning the loss of baby would be forced to make funeral arrangements.

HB 451 raises significant legal questions and seems to be nothing more than a power grab by the new AG, seeking to abuse the powers of his office to further his anti-abortion agenda.

These are clearly Targeted Restrictions on Abortion Providers (“TRAP”) laws, as evidenced by the fact that HB 370 does not address the disposition of fetal tissue that occurs as a result of miscarriages—only abortions, and HB 451 does not expand the
AG’s power to enforce laws against any other health care provider—only abortion providers.

The government should not have the authority to force people to stay pregnant against their will. Vote no on HB 451 and HB 370.

Kate Miller
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