



Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan  
P.O. Box 1315  
Grand Rapids, MI 49501

June 6, 2012

Dear Members of the Michigan House Committee on Health Policy:

The Progressive Women's Alliance (PWA) of West Michigan is a non-partisan organization that works to secure a just and socially responsible society. PWA believes that women should not be denied access to reproductive health services – a fundamental component of women's health care – by politicians. PWA asks that you oppose House Bills 5711, 5712, and 5713.

Recognize these bills for what they are: not policy, not an attempt to amend our health code to improve the welfare of Michigianians, these bills are an all-out attack on women and families. It is insulting to Michigan's women to hide the terrifying language included in these bills under such guises as protection from coercive practices or improving patient care! In fact, these bills are an all-out attempt to criminalize miscarriage, stillbirths, and abortion and are laced with misogyny and pseudo-science. HB5713 It is a clear challenge to the United States Supreme Court's decision Roe v. Wade on multiple fronts. Laden with purely political language, this bill panders to extremists. It is insulting to Michigan's constituents to waste our precious budget dollars on consideration of these bills.

It is time for the Michigan Legislature to stop playing politics with women's health, and to start focusing on the real issues facing our state. If it is the goal of the Michigan Legislature to reduce the number of abortions in Michigan, preventing unintended pregnancies should be their top priority. PWA urges you to move forward common-sense polices that would improve access for women to family planning and prenatal health care, expand access to and insurance coverage of contraceptives, and provide abstinence plus education to our young people.

On behalf of our PWA Board of Directors and on behalf of our PWA membership, I ask that you vote against HB 5711, 5712, and 5713.

Sincerely,

Melissa Janes  
Chair, Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan

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Chair, PWA  
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