

H.B. 364 Abortion Provisions - Mandatory Ultrasound

House Sponsor: Steve Christiansen Senate Sponsor: Curtis Bramble

What does the bill do?

Requires a person seeking an abortion to obtain and pay for an ultrasound 72 hours before their abortion. During the ultrasound, the medical provider must make the ultrasound images visible, describe the fetal images in detail, and make the fetal heartbeat audible.

Talking Points

- **This bill is yet another restriction in a long list of laws the Utah legislature has passed to chip away at the right to abortion in Utah.**
 - Everyone should have access to the health care they need, without politicians controlling when, how, or why. Politicians have no right to impose their personal beliefs on everyone in our state.
- **This bill mandates an additional, medically unnecessary ultrasound**
 - Utah law already requires that an ultrasound be made available to people seeking an abortion prior to the procedure. In fact, an ultrasound at the time of an abortion procedure is best medical practice in many cases. Mandating an additional ultrasound 72 hours before a procedure is unnecessary and costly.
- **This bill adds additional cost, time, and logistical burdens to people seeking abortion care.**
 - The requirement that patients must receive an ultrasound 72 hours before getting an abortion means that they will have to make two trips to a health care provider, possibly pushing their abortion later in pregnancy.
- **This bill is not about health care or safety, but is about shaming women for their choices. Women do not need legislators to help them make their personal reproductive health care decisions.**
 - While claiming to provide women with more information, this bill ultimately seeks to dissuade them from exercising their legal and constitutional right to abortion.
 - This bill is insulting to people seeking abortion care. Those who support ultrasound requirements make the false assumption that people are not capable of making moral decisions and that they make personal decisions, such as the decision to terminate a pregnancy, hastily and without careful consideration.
- **This bill is a political intrusion in the patient-doctor relationship.**
 - This bill is written by politicians -- not doctors. Many leading medical organizations, such as the American Medical Association, American Medical Women's Association, and the American Public Health Association oppose procedure-specific informed consent requirements that may interfere with the doctor-patient relationship.
- **Utahns do not want more abortion restrictions. 80% of Utahns surveyed in a recent statewide poll are opposed to more abortion restrictions in Utah**
 - Politicians who try to block access to abortion are not only on the wrong side of reproductive justice, they are also on the wrong side of public opinion.