

TESTIMONY:
House Bills 4949 – 4959
Passage of the Reproductive Health Act

House Health Policy Committee
September 14, 2023

To the Honorable Chair Julie Rogers and distinguished members of the committee,

My name is Allan Wilke, and I am a family physician in Portage. Thank you to Chair Julie Rogers and this committee for allowing me to share my views about why you must pass the Reproductive Health Act. As a practicing physician, I am submitting comments to advocate for all patients, for policies that can benefit them and for the principle that every patient is unique, with unique needs deserving of personalized, comprehensive, and compassionate care.

In my 40 years of practice, I have included reproductive health in my services to patients. I have cared for women during their pregnancies and delivered their newborns. Pregnancy is not for everyone, maybe the time is not now or ever, and I have helped them control their fertility. I firmly believe that every patient's circumstances are different. Everyone should be able to make important health care decisions that are right for them. These decisions must be left to each individual, based on the advice of the health care professionals they trust, their personal values, and what is best for themselves and their families.

The people who should NOT be involved are politicians, especially those who try to exert their biases and prejudices through obstructing rules and requirements that delay care and prevent care.

For decades, anti-abortion politicians erected these barriers in Michigan. The Reproductive Health Act aims to remove these hurdles to care. It aims to restore to each patient their right to make their own medical decisions, without undue influence, interference and coercion from politicians. In matters of personal health, politicians should not substitute their judgment for that of patients and their primary care providers. The RHA ultimately protects each individual, so they can address their unique medical and personal circumstances.

As a physician who believes in reproductive freedom, I urge you to pass the Reproductive Health Act.

Thank you.

Dr. Allan Wilke, Family Medicine Physician in Portage, MI