

2009 ABORTION RESTRICTION BILL [HB 46](#) (Davis)

FACT SHEET

HB 46 (Davis) is a complicated “checklist” bill that mandates government intrusion into the doctor/patient relationship and ignores the standard practice of medical care already in place for abortion providers. HB 46 demonstrates: a transparent lack of understanding of how professional abortion care is provided in Missouri; contains numerous burdensome, duplicative, and/or unnecessary requirements for counseling, evaluating, and performing abortion procedures; creates the new crime of “coercing an abortion”; and, removes decision-making entirely from the woman seeking the procedure and puts it in the hands of the government. This bill is too extreme for Missouri and does nothing to prevent unintended pregnancy.

This bill would:

- Violate the first amendment right of free speech and create the crime of “coercing an abortion” if:
 - The husband files, attempts to file, or threatens to file for divorce
 - A husband, partner or family member withdraws, attempts to withdraw or threatens to withdraw financial support from or on behalf of the woman
 - A husband, partner or family member changes, attempts to change, or threatens to change the woman’s existing housing or residence
- Make physicians—or anyone assisting them—criminals for helping women obtain an abortion “with knowledge” that the woman has been “coerced” under this new, overly broad definition of ‘coercion’ **even if the woman has freely consented and believes this is the best decision for herself and her family based upon their circumstances.**
- Require providers to offer the woman an opportunity to view her ultrasound 24 hours in advance of her procedure even though Planned Parenthood already performs an ultrasound before the procedure and all women have the opportunity to view their ultrasound, which is standard medical procedure.
- Require posting of signs in clinics that carry false promises of state-backed assistance in carrying a child to term and caring for that child once born.
- Require providers to offer and provide a risky experimental anesthesia to certain women.

Impact

This bill violates a woman’s constitutional right to make an informed decision about abortion, when facing an unintended pregnancy. It ignores a woman’s ability to weigh her life circumstances and make a decision that is best for her and her family.

This bill will make physicians criminals for providing medical care to women who have given their full, informed consent for abortion. This bill will discourage physicians from providing safe and legal abortion care for fear of severe criminal penalties. **As a result of this government intrusion, women will lose access to safe and legal abortion care in Missouri.**