

August 11 2022

Attorney General

AUG 15 2022

Lynwood WA 98087

Dear Acting Attorney General Mark Vargo:

I am a resident of South Dakota (since August 1992) but have been working for the Department of Defense (Navy) since 2005 and am now stationed in Everett Washington and work as a Registered Nurse at the Everett Naval Branch Health Clinic until I retire later this year. I understand you are taking public comment on the ballot proposal on abortion drafted by "Dakotans for Health" that would be placed on the 2024 ballot if enough signatures are obtained.

While not perfect it is reasonable and would protect a pregnant woman's right to an abortion in the first trimester while in the second and third trimester, the state could regulate the abortion decision relating to the pregnant woman's health and physician's medical judgement.

I strongly believe in a women's right to bodily autonomy, the right to privacy related to a women's health care decisions without governmental interference and that those decisions should be discussed and made between the woman and her healthcare Provider.

I would make a recommendation of said ballot initiative that it also include provision that a women could have a termination of pregnancy for fetal demise as well as a fetal anomalies (incompatible with life).

There seems to be large amount of religious influence within the Legislature and the Governor regarding this issue. This is evidenced by South Dakotan's voting against an abortion ban by 56% in 2006 and again in 2088 with 55% opposed.

Abortion is a part of "safe" woman's health care and should remain so. I want to see this placed on the ballot in 2024 so South Dakotans can be clear as a State of what they want.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Mary E. Willock R.N.