

To: Texas Department of State Health Services at [WRTK@dshs.state.tx.gov](mailto:WRTK@dshs.state.tx.gov)

RE: Public Comment

Dear Department of State Health Services,

Texans seeking abortion care are entitled to medically accurate information that is intended to inform, not coerce, their decision. The proposed revision of the WRTK booklet includes inaccurate, biased, and misleading information that will not promote health. We urge you to redraft the proposed changes to ensure that they are medically accurate and scientifically sound.

***[Your additional comment will included here.]***

Some of the inaccuracies I ask you to correct include:

- The embryologic and gestational development descriptions are inaccurate and misleading. Recent research from Rutgers University found that Texas' booklet contained multiple inaccuracies and this latest version does as well.
- The link to fetal pain before 20 weeks is not grounded in "peer reviewed medical literature" but rather political posturing and should be removed. An article published in the Journal of the American Medical Association found that fetal pain before the third trimester is unlikely. This section is misleading at best and clearly biased.
- There is no causal link between abortion and breast cancer. If statute requires this be included, you should include a disclaimer that the medical community has debunked this myth. The National Cancer Institute states that rigorous, unbiased studies have consistently shown no association between induced abortion and breast cancer. The WRTK booklet should clearly state this.
- The information regarding emotional risks and future fertility loss are biased and misleading. According to the Turnaway Study, which tracked long term effects of pregnancy outcomes, the emotion most felt after an abortion is relief.
- Referring to a pregnancy, a fetus or an embryo as an "unborn child" is not consistent with modern medical practice. The use of the term "your baby" to describe the development of an embryo and fetus is not medically accurate. To truly be "informed consent," the booklet should use unbiased, medical terminology.
- The presentation of risk factors of abortion and carrying a pregnancy to term are not presented in a consistent or unbiased manner.
- The WRTK resource directory conflates licensed medical providers with unlicensed crisis pregnancy centers where no health care is offered or available. These facilities should be clearly marked and listed distinctly from actual health care providers. Consumers deserve to be informed of the biased nature of these centers and that they do not offer or refer for birth control or abortion.

Further, I request that you hold a public hearing on this matter so members of the public can have their voices heard.

I appreciate your time and attention and hope that you will consider making this booklet a truly unbiased, medically accurate resource rather than a tool of misinformation.

Sincerely,

[Name]