

Expanding Misinformed Consent Across State Lines

[SB 302 Sen. Riddle](#) Fulton (R-10)

We all want women to have medically accurate information and support they need to make a carefully considered decision about pregnancy. Information should support a woman, help her make a decision for herself, and enable her to take care of her health and well-being.

SB 302 requires that if an abortion or family planning provider in Missouri gives any information to a woman about an out-of-state abortion provider, the Missouri provider must give Missouri state-scripted materials as if the woman has decided to have the abortion in Missouri. The state-scripted materials include medically inaccurate information designed to try to shame a woman and change her mind. The materials must be presented in-person, or, if the inquiry is over-the-phone, via overnight mail.

This bill is an attempt to shame a Missouri woman out of having an abortion - pure and simple.

Forcing doctors to provide medically inaccurate information for political reasons is a violation of medical ethics and dangerously dismissive of a patient's right to truthful information from her doctor. This is an attempt by Missouri politicians to impose their personal beliefs on all women—in Missouri and out-of-state.

Missouri's largest cities span state lines, making it common for Missourians to receive services in other states. This bill attempts to apply a portion of Missouri's coercive and shaming government- mandated misinformed materials to other states.

Questions about the feasibility of implementing SB302:

- Maintaining patient privacy as the referring organization name and address are required for overnight delivery.
- Compliance is not defined in the bill. It is difficult to see how providers would prove compliance, yet failure to comply is a Class A Misdemeanor.
- Maintaining records on referrals to non-patients and protecting confidentiality.
- Burden of compliance is on the abortion or family planning provider even if the person requesting information refuses to give contact information.