

HB231 - Fetal Transport Restrictions

Sponsor: Rep. Cheryl Acton

This bill would prohibit transporting fetal remains (products of conception) from abortions and miscarriages across state lines for any purpose other than burial. This would prohibit Planned Parenthood Association of Utah from sending fetal tissue to an out-of-state pathology lab. Additionally, it would prevent the clinic, pathology labs, and other entities from sending fetal remains out of state for cremation—even if at the request of the pregnant person.

Background:

State law requires products of conception (POC) be sent to a pathology laboratory for examination following an abortion. Planned Parenthood Association of Utah has a longstanding contract with LabCorp, which examines POC at an out-of-state laboratory.

Talking points:

- This bill is a blatant and direct attack on Planned Parenthood and therefore an attempt to limit access to abortion in Utah.
- As written, this bill would not serve any purpose for the people of Utah. It is a TRAP (Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers) bill that would only make it more difficult for health care providers like Planned Parenthood to offer abortion services and miscarriage management.
- This bill would prevent patients from having remains from a miscarriage sent to their preferred location for disposition, if that location were out of state.
- Politicians have no place in these personal choices and should not be creating more unnecessary administrative hurdles for patients during an already vulnerable and difficult time.
- The state has made their opposition to abortion very clear, enacting dozens of laws to make accessing abortion in the state more difficult.
- The last thing Utah needs is another emotional debate about abortion when time and energy can be spent on policy that will help Utah families during this health and economic crisis.
- Utahns do not want more abortion restrictions. According to [2020 polling](#), 80% of Utahns agree that there should be no further restrictions on abortion access in Utah.
- This bill would invite litigation, if it would make providing abortion impossible for PPAU:
 - This bill is an unconstitutional effort to restrict access to abortion and, if it becomes law, it will likely face litigation, which could cost Utah taxpayers. Especially right now, while we the midst of a global pandemic, this effort to limit abortion is a waste of valuable resources that the legislature should be using to help heal our communities.