

Arizona legislators are filing and voting for bad-faith bills that have not been created in response to a societal problem. Rather, these bills are an underhanded attempt to advance an anti-abortion agenda and write fetal "personhood" into Arizona law.

- ➔ **HB2500** purports to offer "economic support" and "healthcare expenses" to women who become pregnant as a result of sexual assault and choose to carry the pregnancy to term. This support would apply during the pregnancy and up to 12 months after birth.
- ➔ This bill is part of a far-reaching, long-term strategy to ban abortion outright in Arizona while undermining the rights and well-being of pregnant people by elevating the rights of a fetus above those of the pregnant person.
- ➔ Such so-called "personhood" bills often result in the criminalization of pregnant people, including those that experience negative pregnancy outcomes such as miscarriage and stillbirth.
- ➔ Only 310 of every 1000 rapes are reported to police; of these, 50 reports result in an arrest, and 28 reports result in felony conviction... yet this bill does not define what "being a victim of a sexual offense" means, opening the door for legal chaos.
- ➔ The crime victim fund does not have the capacity to support medical costs and support of a child through 12 months. How will this bill be funded?
- ➔ This bill would create confusion and chaos in the legal system and lead to forced pregnancy for survivors of sexual assault, all while exploiting the rape survivors to make political points.
- ➔ HB2530 would require the Department of Child Safety to refer a pregnant woman to the Department of Health Services for referral to substance use treatment "upon receipt of a communication involving substance use." This gives the (false) appearance that the bill isn't getting the child welfare system involved; in reality, that's exactly what the bill does.
- ➔ Precedent already exists for surveillance of pregnancies. Nurses can already order drug testing of urine samples without a physician's sign-off or patient knowledge. This bill would increase surveillance and intrusion of privacy during pregnancy, and lead to children being removed from parents.
- ➔ This bill contains no protections or restrictions to prevent a pregnant person from involvement in the criminal system for using a substance while pregnant.

This bill leaves many important questions unanswered, such as:

- ➔
 - If a pregnant person does not participate in treatment, will DCS remove children from the parent?
 - The bill does not define substance use. Does this mean that DCS can refer and ultimately remove children from a parent who's using medication (such as an opioid or cannabis) under the advisement of a doctor?
 - What if a parent smokes or drinks during pregnancy?
 - Will drug testing be mandatory in all hospitals, or will certain areas be targeted?
 - Which experts in child welfare were consulted when creating this legislation?
 - If no experts were consulted, which stakeholders are driving this legislation?

If elected leaders truly wanted to help pregnant people, their families, and their communities, lawmakers should support proven, effective measures such as dental care for pregnant people, paid family medical leave for new parents, passing a living wage that sustains families, and expanding family planning services that allow people to plan their futures... rather than these disingenuous bills that offer no real solutions and harm pregnant people.