



Elections & Laws for Life

October 1, 2020

Dear Representative,

On behalf of our more than 900,000 members, the Susan B. Anthony List opposes and will score against H.Res.1153. We do so reluctantly, but resolutely, due to the inclusion in H. Res. 1153 of an unnecessary and ambiguous clause that fails to define the resolution's critical phrase, "reproductive choices."

Allegations of mass hysterectomies without appropriate informed consent by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees at the Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia are deeply alarming. Conducting any medical procedure – especially one with the permanent consequences of a hysterectomy – without informed consent is an abomination and must be immediately investigated and offenders held to account.

Unfortunately, H.Res.1153 does not appear to be a serious response to reports of atrocious experiences endured by women at the facility. Instead of offering a straightforward resolution, consistent with the language of annual legislation we have long supported and seen adopted into law regarding involuntary sterilization in foreign assistance, language with broad bipartisan support in this and previous Congresses, the authors included Resolved Clause (2) broadly affirming "reproductive choices" while ignoring the rights of the unborn.

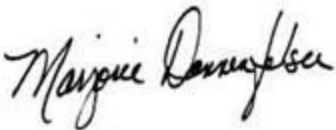
The sweeping statement that Congress "recognizes that everyone deserves to control their own reproductive choices and make informed choices about their bodies" brings into question what is meant by "reproductive choices". When – as is the case here – the phrase is offered by Members of Congress who use parallel language when presuming abortion rights, it follows that the clause can be fairly construed as an affirmation of unfettered abortion on demand.

The resolution contains three other laudable resolved clauses clearly staking positions directly related to the allegations in question. The overreach of Resolved Clause (2) diminishes the impact of the Resolution in condemning forced sterilization, and the specific incidents alleged at the Irwin County Detention Center. We have little doubt that this overreach will be exploited as precedent in future discussions inside and outside of Congress as the endorsement of a principle regarding the sanctity of human life to which we cannot assent.

We categorically condemn and have consistently opposed practices, including abortion, that compromise the bodily integrity of women and children in the womb alike. If the authors are serious about Congress condemning forced sterilization, they should promptly remove Resolved Clause (2).

Susan B. Anthony List opposes H.Res.1153 in its current form. Votes in favor of this resolution will be reflected on members' profiles on our legislative scorecard.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie Dannenfelser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List