



Women's Health & Safety Act (SB 456)

The Abortion Pill is dangerous

- A recent study reviewing reported adverse events over a 20-year period found that women can experience severe and life-threatening side-effects after taking the abortion pill, including heavy bleeding, intense pain, and even death (*Aultman, et al., Issues in Law & Medicine, Volume 36, Number 1, 2021*).
- Another recent, first-of-its-kind study found that chemical abortion is a major public health threat. The study analyzed 423,000 confirmed abortions and found that the rate of abortion-related emergency room visits following a chemical abortion increased by more than 500% from 2002 through 2015 (*Studnicki, et al., Health Services Research and Managerial Epidemiology, January 2021*).
- A woman is 30% more likely to die from an ectopic pregnancy while undergoing an abortion than if she had an ectopic pregnancy but had not sought an abortion. Only a medical exam can confirm an ectopic pregnancy, which the FDA is expected to remove from the regulations. This is reckless on the part of the FDA.
- Georgia has been suffering from a maternal mortality crisis, in which women in our communities have died at disproportionately high rates due to complications such as obstetric hemorrhaging, which is also a chief side-effect of the chemical abortion pill. This rule change from the FDA will only worsen the crisis and undermine the efforts of the Georgia Maternal Mortality Review Committee and the DPH to answer the crisis.
- According to the Guttmacher Institute, Planned Parenthood's research arm, chemical abortions are at a record high of 39% of all abortions – a 73% increase from 2008-2017.

What the bill does

- Requires women to see the abortion provider in person 24 hours in advance and sign an informed consent packet that is placed in her medical file.
- Enhances the Womens Right to Know informed consent packet to include more comprehensive information about the development of the child and risks of abortion.
- Includes information about abortion pill reversal in informed consent so women have the ability to choose if they change their mind.
- Requires that an ultrasound be done before any abortion to ensure the child is not implanted ectopically and to verify the probable gestational age.
- Requires that every abortion in the state of Georgia be reported, including any complications or adverse events resulting from the abortion.
- Empowers the Attorney General to commence civil action after violations.
- Requires the Composite Medical Board be notified of violations.
- Protects women from criminal or civil penalties.
- Empowers women on whom criminal abortions were performed to bring a private right of action against abortion providers.

- Protects doctors treating women suffering from miscarriages from penalties.
- Requires doctors determine if a pregnant woman's child has a different blood type and administer RhoGAM if necessary.
- Requires abortions only be performed by licensed physicians.
- Prohibits the abortion pill from being provided through courier, telemedicine, or mail.
- Prevents the abortion pill from being provided in any school facility or state grounds.
- Impose criminal, civil, and professional penalties on those who break the law.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Why should we be discouraging telemedicine in the middle of a pandemic?
 - Chemical abortion poses an exceptional risk to women and require medical medical intervention in many cases. This merits exceptional care taken to ensure patient safety by mandating a doctor's physical involvement.
- Should we wait for the legal rulings in June before passing more abortion bans?
 - This isn't an abortion ban, and it falls outside of the purview of the Heartbeat Bill because it is addressing a direct threat to patient safety caused by the Biden FDA's rule change in 2021 that is putting our women at risk.
- How is the abortion pill different than Plan B/the morning after pill?
 - Chemical abortion is a medical intervention with the expressed purpose of terminating a pregnancy by killing a baby and then expelling their body. Plan B is emergency contraception that seeks to prevent pregnancy from taking place. This legislation will not affect the morning after pill or birth control.
- Will this prevent women from seeking care for miscarriage or allow prosecuting them?
 - No. In the tragic circumstances of miscarriage, a woman might be prescribed the second pill of the chemical abortion regimen. But she would seek medical care first to have an ultrasound done and diagnose an "incomplete abortion" then determine whether she needs additional intervention to prevent infection and possible death. The enforcement of this legislation is targeted only towards healthcare providers who put patients at risk by violating the law.
- Shouldn't we trust women and doctors to make their own healthcare decisions?
 - The abortion industry is shifting a complex, emotional medical decision into a mail-delivery service and removing the doctor from the equation. Our women deserve better and the legislature has a compelling interest to intervene.
- Is this happening already in Georgia?
 - Yes. Carafem in Atlanta is already mailing out a little pink gift box with the abortion pill in it that says, "Treat yourselves to an abortion." The abortion industry is already putting women at risk and making light of a serious situation.
- Is Georgia the first state to address this issue?
 - No. Similar laws have been passed in OK, TX, IN, AZ, MT, & SD (executive order).
- How can Georgia pass a law prohibiting something allowed by the Federal government?
 - The FDA rules are not law, but states commonly pass more restrictive laws regarding who can prescribe certain drugs, what drugs have certain requirements, etc than the Federal government.