

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

HOUSE BILL 2496

By: Trebilcock

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to public health and safety; enacting the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act; defining terms; making certain unborn child pain information available to pregnant females; requiring certain certification by the female; requiring the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to make available certain information; providing for Internet web site; providing for certain reporting forms; specifying content and purpose of forms; providing penalties; setting privacy requirements for certain court proceedings; providing for severability; providing for codification; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.6 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act".

SECTION 2. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.7 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act:

1. "Abortion" means the use or prescription of any instrument, medicine, drug, or any other substance or device intentionally to terminate the pregnancy of a female known to be pregnant with an intention other than to increase the probability of a live birth to preserve the life or health of the child after live birth, or to remove a dead fetus who dies as the result of a spontaneous miscarriage;

2. "Attempt to perform an abortion" means an act, or an omission of a statutorily required act that, under the circumstances as the actor believes them to be, constitutes a substantial step in a course of conduct planned to culminate in the performance of an abortion in Oklahoma in violation of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act;

3. "Unborn child" means a member of the species homo sapiens from fertilization until birth;

4. "Medical emergency" means any condition which, on the basis of the good faith clinical judgment of a physician, so complicates the medical condition of a pregnant female as to necessitate the immediate abortion of the pregnancy to avert the death of the pregnant female or for which a delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function;

5. "Physician" means a person licensed to practice medicine in this state pursuant to Chapters 11 and 14 of Title 59 of the Oklahoma Statutes; and

6. "Probable gestational age" means the gestational age of the unborn child at the time the abortion is planned to be performed, as determined by the physician using reasonable probability.

SECTION 3. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.8 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Except in the case of a medical emergency:

A. At least twenty-four (24) hours prior to an abortion being performed on an unborn child whose probable gestational age is twenty (20) weeks or more, the physician performing the abortion or the agent of the physician shall inform the pregnant female, by telephone or in person, of the right to review the printed materials described in Section 5 of this act, that these materials are available on a state-sponsored web site, and the web address of that web site. The physician or the agent of the physician shall orally

inform the female that the materials have been provided by the State of Oklahoma and that the materials contain information on pain and the unborn child. If the female chooses to view the materials other than on the web site, the materials shall either be given to the female at least twenty-four (24) hours before the abortion, or mailed to the female at least seventy-two (72) hours before the abortion by certified mail, restricted delivery to the addressee. The information required by this subsection may be provided by a tape recording if provision is made to record or otherwise register specifically whether the female does or does not choose to receive the printed materials given or mailed.

B. The female shall certify in writing, prior to the abortion, that the information described in subsection A of this section has been furnished to the female, and that the female has been informed of the opportunity to review the printed materials described in Section 5 of this act. Prior to the performance of the abortion, the physician who is to perform the abortion or the agent of the physician shall obtain a copy of the written certification and retain the copy on file with the medical record of the female for at least three (3) years following the date of receipt.

SECTION 4. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.9 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Except in the case of a medical emergency, before an abortion is performed on an unborn child who is twenty (20) weeks gestational age or more, the physician performing the abortion or the agent of the physician shall inform the female if an anesthetic or analgesic would eliminate or alleviate organic pain to the unborn child caused by the particular method of abortion to be employed and inform the female of the particular medical risks associated with the particular anesthetic or analgesic. With the consent of the female, the physician shall administer the anesthetic or analgesic.

SECTION 5. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.10 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Within ninety (90) days after the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act becomes law, the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall cause to be published, in English and in each language which is the primary language of two percent (2%) or more of the population of the state, and shall cause to be available on the state web site provided for in Section 6 of this act, printed materials with the following statement concerning unborn children of twenty (20) weeks gestational age: "By twenty (20) weeks gestation, the unborn child has the physical structures necessary to experience pain. There is evidence that by twenty (20) weeks gestation unborn children seek to evade certain stimuli in a manner which in an infant or an adult would be interpreted to be a response to pain. Anesthesia is routinely administered to unborn children who are twenty (20) weeks gestational age or older who undergo prenatal surgery."

The materials shall be objective, nonjudgmental and designed to convey only accurate scientific information about the human fetus at the various gestational ages.

B. The materials referred to in subsection A of this section shall be printed in a typeface large enough to be clearly legible. The web site provided for in Section 6 of this act shall be maintained at a minimum resolution of 70 DPI (dots per inch). All pictures appearing on this web site shall be a minimum of 200x300 pixels. All letters on the web site shall be a minimum of 11 point font. All information and pictures shall be accessible with an industry standard browser requiring no additional plug-ins.

C. The materials required under this section shall be available at no cost from the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision

upon request and in appropriate number to any person, facility, or hospital.

SECTION 6. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.11 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall develop and maintain a stable Internet web site to provide the information described under Section 5 of this act. No information regarding who uses the web site shall be collected or maintained. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall monitor the web site on a daily basis to prevent and correct tampering.

SECTION 7. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.12 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

When a medical emergency compels the performance of an abortion, the physician shall inform the female, prior to the abortion if possible, of the medical indications supporting the judgment of the physician that an abortion is necessary to avert the death of the female or that a twenty-four-hour delay will create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

SECTION 8. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.13 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Within ninety (90) days after the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act becomes law, the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall prepare a reporting form for physicians containing a reprint of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act and listing:

1. The number of females to whom the physician or an agent of the physician provided the information described in subsection A of Section 3 of this act; of that number, the number provided by telephone and the number provided in person; and of each of those

numbers, the number provided in the capacity of a referring physician and the number provided in the capacity of a physician who is to perform the abortion or agent of such a physician;

2. The number of females who availed themselves of the opportunity to obtain a copy of the printed information described in Section 5 of this act other than on the web site, and the number who did not; and of each of those numbers, the number who, to the best of the information and belief of the reporting physician, went on to obtain the abortion; and

3. The number of abortions performed by the physician in which information otherwise required to be provided at least twenty-four (24) hours before the abortion was not so provided because an immediate abortion was necessary to avert the death of the female, and the number of abortions in which such information was not so provided because a delay would create serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function.

B. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall ensure that copies of the reporting forms described in subsection A of this section are provided:

1. Within one hundred twenty days (120) days after the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act becomes law, to all physicians licensed to practice in this state;

2. To each physician who subsequently becomes newly licensed to practice in this state, at the same time as official notification to that physician that the physician is so licensed; and

3. By December 1 of each year, other than the calendar year in which forms are distributed in accordance with paragraph 1 of this subsection, to all physicians licensed to practice in this state.

C. By February 28 of each year following a calendar year in any part of which the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act was in effect, each physician who provided, or whose agent provided, information to one or more females in accordance with Section 3 of

this act during the previous calendar year shall submit to the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision a copy of the form described in subsection A of this section, with the requested data entered accurately and completely.

D. Reports that are not submitted by the end of a grace period of thirty (30) days following the due date shall be subject to a late fee of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for each additional thirty-day period or portion of a thirty-day period the reports are overdue. Any physician required to report in accordance with this section who has not submitted a report, or has submitted only an incomplete report, more than one (1) year following the due date may, in an action brought by the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, be directed by a court of competent jurisdiction to submit a complete report within a period stated by court order or be subject to sanctions for civil contempt.

E. By June 30 of each year the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall issue a public report providing statistics for the previous calendar year compiled from all of the reports covering that year submitted in accordance with this section for each of the items listed in subsection A of this section. Each such report shall also provide the statistics for all previous calendar years, adjusted to reflect any additional information from late or corrected reports. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision shall take care to ensure that none of the information included in the public reports could reasonably lead to the identification of any individual providing or provided information in accordance with subsection A or B of Section 3 of this act.

F. The State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, by rule promulgated in accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, may alter the dates established by paragraph 3 of subsection B, subsection C, or subsection E of this section or consolidate the forms or reports described in this section with other forms or

reports to achieve administrative convenience or fiscal savings or to reduce the burden of reporting requirements, so long as reporting forms are sent to all licensed physicians in the state at least once every year and the report described in subsection E of this section is issued at least once every year.

SECTION 9. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.14 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Any person who knowingly or recklessly performs or attempts to perform an abortion in violation of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act shall be guilty of a felony. Any physician who knowingly or recklessly submits a false report under subsection C of Section 8 of this act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor. No penalty may be assessed against the female upon whom the abortion is performed or attempted to be performed. No penalty or civil liability may be assessed for failure to comply with Section 3 of this act requiring a written certification that the female has been informed of the opportunity to review the information referred to in Section 3 of this act unless the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision has made the printed materials available at the time the physician or the agent of the physician is required to inform the female of the right to review the materials.

SECTION 10. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.15 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any person upon whom an abortion has been performed without the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act having been complied with, the father of the unborn child who was the subject of such an abortion, or the grandparent of such an unborn child may maintain an action against the person who performed the abortion in knowing or reckless violation of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act for actual and punitive damages. Any person upon whom an abortion

has been attempted without the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act having been complied with may maintain an action against the person who attempted to perform the abortion in knowing or reckless violation of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act for actual and punitive damages.

B. If the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision fails to issue the public report required by subsection E of Section 8 of this act, any group of ten or more citizens of this state may seek an injunction in a court of competent jurisdiction against the head of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision requiring that a complete report be issued within a period stated by court order. Failure to abide by such an injunction shall subject the head of the State Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision to sanctions for civil contempt.

C. If judgment is rendered in favor of the plaintiff in any action described in this section, the court shall also render judgment for a reasonable attorney fee in favor of the plaintiff against the defendant. If judgment is rendered in favor of the defendant and the court finds that the suit by the plaintiff was frivolous and brought in bad faith, the court shall also render judgment for a reasonable attorney fee in favor of the defendant against the plaintiff.

SECTION 11. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.16 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

In every civil or criminal proceeding or action brought under the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act, the court shall rule whether the anonymity of any female upon whom an abortion has been performed or attempted shall be preserved from public disclosure if the female does not give her consent to such disclosure. The court, upon motion or sua sponte, shall make such a ruling and, upon determining that the anonymity of the female should be preserved,

shall issue orders to the parties, witnesses, and counsel and shall direct the sealing of the record and exclusion of individuals from courtrooms or hearing rooms to the extent necessary to safeguard the identity of the female from public disclosure. Each such order shall be accompanied by specific written findings explaining why the anonymity of the female should be preserved from public disclosure, why the order is essential to that end, how the order is narrowly tailored to serve that interest, and why no reasonable less restrictive alternative exists. In the absence of written consent of the female upon whom an abortion has been performed or attempted, anyone, other than a public official, who brings an action under subsection A of Section 10 of this act shall do so under a pseudonym. This section may not be construed to conceal the identity of the plaintiff or of witnesses from the defendant.

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1-738.17 of Title 63, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

If any one or more provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act or the application thereof to any person or circumstance is found to be unconstitutional, the same is hereby declared to be severable and the balance of the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act shall remain effective notwithstanding such unconstitutionality. The Legislature hereby declares that it would have passed the Unborn Child Pain Awareness/Prevention Act, and each provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or word thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more provision, section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, or word be declared unconstitutional.

SECTION 13. It being immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby

declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

50-2-8747      SAB      01/12/06