



House Bill 1042: Mandatory Ultrasound Requirement
Patron: Delegate Kathy Byron
NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia Position: OPPOSE

Women deserve access to all the information necessary to make informed decisions about their reproductive health. However, politicians should not require a doctor to perform a medically unnecessary ultrasound. This bill serves no legitimate healthcare purpose and aims solely to shame women for their choice to terminate a pregnancy.

Additionally, this bill is prohibitively costly. The cost of a medically unnecessary ultrasound will fall on a provider, an individual, or the individual's insurance company, making this bill far from fiscally neutral.

Medical decisions ought to be made by a woman and her physician – not by politicians.

- House Bill 1042 is a burdensome and costly measure that requires mandatory, medically unnecessary ultrasounds and unduly interferes with the doctor-patient relationship.
- Leading medical organizations, such as the American Medical Association, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Medical Women's Association and the American Public Health Association oppose procedure-specific requirements that interfere with the doctor-patient relationship or compromise a physician's medical judgments to what information or treatment is in the best interest of the patient.
- The medical necessity of an ultrasound is best determined by a woman's doctor and not by the Virginia General Assembly.

Mandatory ultrasounds will cause harmful delays to women seeking reproductive care.

- If the doctor does not have ultrasound equipment, a woman must find another doctor to perform the ultrasound prior to receiving abortion care which would impose additional waiting delays.
- Further delays, especially for medically unnecessary requirements, could significantly increase the risk to a woman's life, or health. This predicament is especially true for low income women or women from rural areas who may have to travel hundreds of miles to access health care.

A woman should have the option of an ultrasound—but the state shouldn't force her to undergo one.

- The law already clearly states that women must give their informed, written consent before obtaining an abortion.
- NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia does not oppose legislation that allows a woman the option to view an ultrasound that she has requested.

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