

# New Mexico Conference of Catholic Bishops



## **Archdiocese of Santa Fe**

Most Reverend John C. Wester, Archbishop

Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, Archbishop Emeritus

## **Diocese of Las Cruces**

Most Reverend Gerald Kicanas, Apostolic Administrator | Bishop Emeritus of Tucson

Most Reverend Ricardo Ramirez, Bishop Emeritus

## **Diocese of Gallup**

Most Reverend James S. Wall, Bishop

## **New Mexico Conference of Bishops**

Allen Sánchez, Executive Director

Deacon Steve Rangel, Associate Director

## **URGENT ACTION ALERT!**

### **Opposition to New Mexico House Bill 51**

#### **New Mexico HB 51, the Decriminalize Abortion Bill**

#### **That Rolls Back Current Abortion Limits Hearing**

**Friday, 1:30 P.M., February 1, 2019**

**New Mexico State Capitol, Room 309**

**House Judiciary Committee**

#### **Oppose New Mexico HB 51, Decriminalize Abortion Bill**

**Please come to the hearing to offer your testimony opposing HB 51.**

ALBUQUERQUE- IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- Thursday, January 31, 2019-- New Mexico HB 51, the Decriminalize Abortion Bill, will be heard Friday, February 1, 2019 at 1:30 pm at the New Mexico State Capitol in room 309, House Judiciary Committee. Please come to the hearing to offer your testimony opposing this bill.

HB 51 seeks to eliminate current abortion limits. This bill is not good for New Mexicans, especially women and children. HB 51 puts all risk of abortion on women's shoulders by stripping legal protections, including a consent requirement. HB 51 strips away the requirement that only licensed physicians can perform abortions. Forty-two states (and Washington, D.C.) protect women and unborn children from non-medically necessary, dangerous late-term abortions. Abortion procedures should NOT be an exception to quality standards of care. HB 51 guarantees that parents will NOT be involved in their minor daughter's abortion. HB 51 allows sex traffickers and child abusers to take a pregnant minor for an abortion, without parental knowledge or involvement. HB 51 strips away the only explicit conscience protection for doctors and other medical professionals that protect them from being forced to participate in abortions. HB 51 puts doctors at risk to lose their medical license and face criminal prosecution or other sanctions.

To protect New Mexican women, children and doctors, urge your New Mexico legislators to vote NO on HB 51. Contact Allen Sánchez 505.319.3334 -- END

## **Information provided by New Mexico Alliance for Life**

### **HB-51 Does Not Protect Women**

- 70% of New Mexicans oppose allowing abortions after five months up to birth.
- HB 51 puts all risk of abortion on women's shoulders by stripping legal protections, including a consent requirement.
- HB 51 strips away the requirement that only licensed physicians can perform abortions.
- HB 51 keeps dangerous late-term abortions, up to birth, legal for any reason. The risk of death or serious injury to women increases to 76.6% in abortions after five months.
- Forty-two states (and D.C.) protect women and unborn children from non-medically necessary, dangerous late-term abortions.
- Abortion procedures should NOT be an exception to quality standards of care.

### **HB-51 Does Not Protect Children**

- 67% of New Mexicans support parental involvement in a minor's abortion.
- HB 51 guarantees that parents will NOT be involved in their minor daughter's abortion.
- HB 51 allows sex traffickers and child abusers to take a pregnant minor for an abortion, without any parental knowledge or involvement.
- Thirty-seven states protect children by requiring parental involvement for minors seeking abortions.
- New Mexico must prioritize children's safety. We need more, not less, parental involvement.
- Surgical abortion is an invasive medical procedure. No child should be left alone to decide.

### **HB-51 Does Not Protect Doctors**

- The majority of New Mexicans do not believe medical professionals and hospitals should be forced to participate in abortions.
- HB 51 strips away the only explicit conscience protection for doctors and other medical professionals that protect them from being forced to participate in abortions.
- HB 51 puts doctors at risk to lose their medical license and face criminal prosecution or other sanctions.
- Forty-six states have abortion-related conscience protections since federal protections are limited.
- Medical professionals should not have to worry that the state of New Mexico and private companies could have the power to force them to choose between their faith and their profession.
- New Mexicans must work together to preserve conscience protections for our valued medical professionals.