



February 20, 2023

RE: Testimony in **Opposition to Senate Bill 131** of the 2023 Nevada Legislature

Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor:

On behalf of Republicans in the great State of Nevada, I would like to communicate our strong opposition of Senate Bill 131.

It says a lot that this bill which is supposedly about healthcare is being first heard in a Commerce committee, and not a health committee. Nevada is a state known for tourism. Is abortion tourism really the tagline we want to use as an advertisement? “Come to Nevada, where our abortion limits are the same as China and North Korea?”

SB131 is bad in so many ways. But first, let’s start with the facts. Abortion is legal in Nevada until 6 months of gestation, past the point of viability for the child, and far past what other civilized first-world countries find acceptable (3 months being the general limit in Europe). No one in Carson City can make abortion in Nevada illegal - not the Legislature, not the Governor. The only people that can modify it are the voters of Nevada - and thus far, they have shown no inclination to do so.

This bill takes the fact - that abortion is undeniably legal in Nevada - and seeks to market our state as some sort of haven for women seeking abortions. Worse yet, it seeks to have doctors which are unable to be certified in other states, allowed to practice in ours. Shoddy medical standards are how doctors get to keep practicing, even after abortions they perform result in the death of their adult patients. Veterinarians and nail salons have more safety protections than an abortion clinic in Nevada.

No matter your personal morality regarding abortion, the science is clear - abortion stops a beating heart. While Republicans don’t find that acceptable, some in this chamber do. But is that what you want our state to be known for? “Visit Nevada - the national leader in killing the unborn.” That slogan is horrific. And yet that is exactly what the sponsors of this bill are proposing.

This bill also seeks to protect criminals. Nevada leads the nation in human traffickingⁱ, most of the victims starting while they are underageⁱⁱ. This is a particular danger in Nevada, where there are no parental consent laws, and minors are able to get abortions without any adult notification. This is a heartbreaking, avoidable tragedy that casts a dark light on our bright cities. One of the most common tactics of pimps is forcing their female victims to have abortions - so that the flow of illicit money does not stop. Why is the entire Democratic caucus not united behind a bill to stop human trafficking into our state? To punish the pimps and save their victims? Perhaps because those victims don’t have the money to donate to their campaigns, while NARAL, Planned Parenthood, and other purveyors of death do.

Our state is deservedly known as the entertainment capital of the world. Please don’t make it the abortion capital of the world. While there may be money for Democrats in stopping the hearts of living children, it is dirty money, obtained by hurting our most innocent. Just say no to SB131.



Finally, we would respectfully request that the members under litigation for a Constitutional violation of the separation of powers clause (Article 3, Section 1, Nevada Constitution) for their concurrent employment with government agencies while being state legislators—recuse themselves until the litigation is settled or they have fully resolved their violation of the Nevada Constitution.

The powers of the Government of the State of Nevada shall be divided into three separate departments, the Legislature, the Executive and the Judicial; and no person charged with the exercise of powers properly belonging to one of these departments shall exercise any functions, appertaining to either of the others, except in the cases expressly directed or permitted in this constitution. Nevada Const. Art. 3, §1, ¶1.

For these reasons, the Nevada Republican Party strongly opposes SB131.

Sincerely,

Republican National Committeeman Jim DeGraffenreid

ⁱ [Nevada Ranks Number One in Human Trafficking](https://thenevadaglobe.com/articles/nevada-ranks-number-one-in-human-trafficking/), 7/12/2022, <<https://thenevadaglobe.com/articles/nevada-ranks-number-one-in-human-trafficking/>>

ⁱⁱ [US Dept of Health and Human Services Child Victims of Human Trafficking](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/fact_sheet_child_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf), <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/orr/fact_sheet_child_victims_of_human_trafficking.pdf>