

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0273

Wyoming pregnancy centers-autonomy and rights.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Rodriguez-Williams,
Angelos, Haroldson, Harshman, Hoeft, Johnson
and Ottman and Senator(s) Biteman, Boner,
Brennan and French

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to public health and safety; providing
2 legislative findings; prohibiting the state and specified
3 governmental entities from adopting any law, rule or policy
4 that targets pregnancy centers for oversight or regulation
5 based on the centers' stance against abortion; providing
6 definitions; providing penalties; specifying available
7 damages; providing a right of intervention for members of
8 the legislature as specified; making conforming amendments;
9 and providing for an effective date.

10

11 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

12

13 **Section 1.**

14

1 (a) The legislature finds that:

2

3 (i) Pregnancy centers have a considerable and
4 growing life-affirming impact on the women, men, children
5 and communities that they serve;

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7 (ii) Pregnancy centers serve women in Wyoming
8 and across the United States with integrity and compassion;

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10 (iii) Pregnancy centers provide comprehensive
11 care to women and men facing unexpected pregnancies,
12 including resources to meet their physical, psychological,
13 emotional and spiritual needs;

14

15 (iv) Pregnancy centers offer women free,
16 confidential and compassionate services, including
17 pregnancy tests, peer counseling, twenty-four (24) hour
18 telephone hotlines, childbirth and parenting classes,
19 referrals to community health care, adoption referrals and
20 other support services;

21

22 (v) Many medical pregnancy centers offer
23 ultrasounds and other medical services;

1

2 (vi) Pregnancy centers encourage women to make
3 positive life choices by equipping them with complete and
4 accurate information regarding their pregnancy options and
5 the development of their unborn children;

6

7 (vii) Pregnancy centers provide important
8 support and resources for women who choose childbirth over
9 abortion;

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11 (viii) Pregnancy centers have faced
12 unprecedented attacks since the United States Supreme
13 Court's decision in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health
14 Organization, which overturned Roe v. Wade and the federal
15 constitutional right to abortion;

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17 (ix) Since 2022, at least one-third (1/3) of the
18 states have introduced legislation seeking to undermine
19 pregnancy centers' freedom of speech and association, or
20 legislation to interfere with their hiring and staffing
21 decisions, while numerous municipalities have considered
22 similar ordinances.

23

1 (i) "Abortion" means the act of using or
2 prescribing any instrument, medicine, drug or any other
3 substance, device or means with the intent to terminate the
4 clinically diagnosable pregnancy of a woman and for the
5 purpose of ensuring the death of the unborn child.
6 "Abortion" shall not include any use, prescription or means
7 specified in this paragraph if the use, prescription or
8 means are done with the intent to:

9

10 (A) Save the life or preserve the health of
11 the unborn child;

12

13 (B) Remove a dead unborn child caused by
14 miscarriage;

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16 (C) Remove an ectopic pregnancy; or

17

18 (D) Perform a pre-viability separation
19 procedure when the procedure is, based on reasonable
20 medical judgment, necessary to save the life of or prevent
21 serious physical injury to the pregnant woman.

22

1 (ii) "Abortion-inducing drug" means any
2 medicine, drug or any other substance prescribed or
3 dispensed with the intent of terminating the clinically
4 diagnosable pregnancy of a woman and for the purpose of
5 ensuring the death of an unborn child. "Abortion-inducing
6 drug" includes the off-label use of drugs known to have
7 abortion-inducing properties that are prescribed
8 specifically with the intent of causing an abortion.
9 "Abortion-inducing drug" does not include drugs that may be
10 known to cause an abortion but are prescribed for other
11 medical indications;

12

13 (iii) "Contraception" means the use of any
14 natural or artificial means to prevent the fertilization of
15 a human ovum;

16

17 (iv) "Ectopic pregnancy" means the state of
18 carrying an unborn child outside of the uterine cavity;

19

20 (v) "Miscarriage" means a spontaneous loss of an
21 unborn child;

22

1 (vi) "Pregnancy center" means a private
2 nonprofit organization that promotes childbirth and
3 alternatives to abortion and provides women, children and
4 families with resources, counseling, classes, referrals and
5 information related to pregnancy, childbearing, adoption
6 and parenting. A medical pregnancy center may provide
7 medical testing, counseling and pregnancy-related care;

8
9 (vii) "Pre-viability separation procedure" means
10 a medical procedure performed by a licensed physician to
11 remove an unborn child from the mother's uterine cavity
12 before that stage of fetal development when, in the
13 physician's reasonable medical judgment based on the
14 particular facts of the case and in light of the most
15 advanced medical technology and information available,
16 there is a reasonable likelihood of sustained survival of
17 the unborn child outside the body of the child's mother,
18 with or without artificial support. "Pre-viability
19 separation procedure" does not include an abortion;

20
21 (viii) "This act" means W.S. 35-4-1101 through
22 35-4-1104.

23

1 **35-4-1103. Interference with pregnancy centers**
2 **prohibited.**

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4 (a) The state and any of its political subdivisions,
5 counties, cities, towns, special districts and agencies
6 shall not, through the adoption or enactment of any law,
7 ordinance, resolution, policy or similar measure:

8

9 (i) Require a pregnancy center to offer or
10 perform abortions;

11

12 (ii) Require a pregnancy center to offer,
13 provide or distribute abortion-inducing drugs or
14 contraception;

15

16 (iii) Require a pregnancy center to refer any
17 person for abortion, an abortion-inducing drug or
18 contraception;

19

20 (iv) Require a pregnancy center to counsel in
21 favor of abortion, abortion-inducing drugs or
22 contraception;

23

1 (v) Require a pregnancy center to post any
2 advertisement, sign, flyer or other similar material that
3 promotes or provides any information that promotes or
4 provides information about obtaining an abortion,
5 abortion-inducing drugs or contraception;

6

7 (vi) Prohibit a pregnancy center from providing
8 information, care, counseling, classes or other services
9 related to pregnancy, childbirth or parenting because the
10 pregnancy center does not perform, refer or counsel in
11 favor of abortion, abortion-inducing drugs or
12 contraception;

13

14 (vii) Prohibit a pregnancy center from providing
15 prenatal and postnatal resources, including diapers, baby
16 clothes, baby furniture, formula and similar items because
17 the pregnancy center does not perform, refer or counsel in
18 favor of abortion, abortion-inducing drugs or
19 contraception;

20

21 (viii) Prohibit a medical pregnancy center from
22 providing medical testing, counseling and care related to
23 pregnancy or childbirth because the pregnancy center does

1 not perform, refer or counsel in favor of abortion,
2 abortion-inducing drugs or contraception;

3

4 (ix) Prohibit a medical pregnancy center from
5 counseling a woman on any pregnancy-related care or
6 treatment, including care or treatment that may reverse the
7 effects of abortion-inducing drugs;

8

9 (x) Interfere with the pregnancy center's
10 staffing or hiring decisions by requiring the center to
11 interview, hire or continue to employ any person who does
12 not affirm the center's mission statement or agree to
13 comply with the center's pro-life ethic and operating
14 procedure.

15

16 **35-4-1104. Legal remedies; right of intervention.**

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18 (a) A pregnancy center or any person aggrieved by a
19 violation of this act may commence a civil action for
20 damages, declaratory relief, injunctive relief and any
21 other appropriate relief. A person prevailing in an action
22 under this subsection shall be entitled to recover an
23 amount equal to three (3) times the actual damages

1 sustained. Recovery under this subsection shall be not less
2 than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) and shall include
3 all costs and reasonable attorney fees. For purposes of
4 this subsection, damages shall be cumulative and shall in
5 no way be limited by any other remedies that may be
6 available under any other federal, state or municipal law.

7

8 (b) By legislative order, the legislature may appoint
9 one (1) or more members to intervene as a matter of right
10 in any case in which the constitutionality or legality of
11 this act is challenged.

12

13 **Section 3.** W.S. 1-39-104(a) is amended to read:

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15 **1-39-104. Granting immunity from tort liability;**
16 **liability on contracts; exceptions.**

17

18 (a) A governmental entity and its public employees
19 while acting within the scope of duties are granted
20 immunity from liability for any tort except as provided by
21 W.S. 1-39-105 through 1-39-112, and 1-39-122 ~~and 1-39-123~~
22 through 1-39-124. Any immunity in actions based on a
23 contract entered into by a governmental entity is waived

1 except to the extent provided by the contract if the
2 contract was within the powers granted to the entity and
3 was properly executed and except as provided in W.S.
4 1-39-120(b). The claims procedures of W.S. 1-39-113 apply
5 to contractual claims against governmental entities.

6

7 **Section 4.** This act is effective July 1, 2025.

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9

(END)