

S. 129 The Personhood Act of SC - Anti-Birth Control Act

Overview of the bill:

The Personhood Act of South Carolina would grant constitutional rights for fertilized eggs at the “moment of fertilization,” before pregnancy has occurred.

- “Pregnancy” is established when a fertilized egg has been implanted in the wall of a woman’s uterus. Hormonal contraceptives act before implantation and prevent pregnancy; therefore this bill would prohibit doctors from prescribing many FDA-approved methods of contraception.
- National groups including the American Medical Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the American Academy of Pediatrics define pregnancy at “implantation.”
- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists estimates that between one-third and one-half of all fertilized eggs never fully implant, yet this bill would grant them full constitutional rights.
- This type of legislation is so broad, it would outlaw emergency contraception, hormonal birth control pills and other methods of birth control because they can prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus.
- By giving legal rights to fertilized eggs, this amendment threatens hormonal birth control methods (like the Pill or IUDs), including access to emergency contraception, even for rape and incest victims.
- In vitro fertilization (IVF) could be banned since fertilized eggs used in these processes would have full legal rights.
- IVF requires doctors to handle many fertilized eggs, some of which will not be implanted into a woman’s uterus. Under this bill, any loss of a fertilized egg would pose the risk of criminal liability.
- S. 129 would eliminate a woman’s right to make personal private decisions about her own body and her health.

What You Can Do

- Visit www.tellthemsc.org and sign up for updates on this and other pieces of legislation that threatens your healthcare
- Send an email to your legislators telling them that you are against this (or any) bill that would remove your right to birth control and In Vitro-Fertilization.
- Get others involved. Share this information with your friends and get your community to make their voices heard.
- Keep up-to-date with all the legislative issues that deal with reproductive health by following *Tell Them* on Facebook, and Twitter.