



Transcript from Karen Baker video for SB 106

"Hello everyone, I'm Karen Baker, CEO of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape – PCAR. As so many of us are aware, the U.S. Supreme Court recently made an infuriating landmark decision that overturns nearly 50 years of legal protection for abortion rights. Because of this court decision there has been significant concern that individual states will act to restrict or interfere with reproductive rights. Pennsylvania is proving to be no exception.

Pennsylvania's legislature passed Senate Bill 106 before breaking for summer. This bill is a constitutional amendment - meaning that it does not need to be signed by Governor Wolf—or any future Governor--nor does it give them the opportunity to veto it.

Make no mistake that, as written, this bill fully intends to take a step towards eliminating abortion services in Pennsylvania. In fact, if successful, this bill's proponents would open the door to a complete ban on Pennsylvanians' reproductive freedom and access to safe healthcare. This was done late in the night with no public notice or an opportunity for voters, the general public, and advocates to understand what was happening. It was adopted despite strong opposition from many organizations like PCAR and so many individual citizens throughout the Commonwealth. We are thankful for the impassioned and strong speeches made on the floor by legislators uplifting reproductive rights and for their call to support their fellow Pennsylvanians in an extremely personal and complex decision.

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape supports the full range of reproductive healthcare for all people. We oppose any effort to ban or restrict Pennsylvanians' safe and legal access to abortion.

While we are outraged about the impact of this bill, please know that this is not the end of the story. As a constitutional amendment, this bill needs to be introduced again next year and passed. Your elected officials will be asked to vote on this legislation again. We all have a chance to contact our Senators and Representatives to tell them our views about whether abortion should remain legal and available in Pennsylvania. Should the bill pass the House and Senate again next year, voters will see a question on the ballot at the polls, asking them if they feel the PA Constitution should be amended to prohibit any right relating to abortion and the use of public funds to pay for certain abortions. Importantly, this November, Pennsylvanians will have the opportunity to exercise their democratic right to vote for an elected official that will represent their voice on this issue next year!

I urge you to continue using your voice to peacefully protest this infringement on our rights. Please know that we are united in opposing this harmful legislation and in working together we can be successful in stopping this effort. PCAR will share updates and resources in the coming weeks. Our statewide network of rape crisis centers continues to support survivors of sexual violence who are concerned about what this can mean for themselves and other victims in the future. You are not alone and we will support each other. Thank you."

Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

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