

SB 528: Ultrasound Before Abortion Act

Authored by Senator Sharon Weston Broome

Why does Louisiana need the “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act”?

In the “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act”, Louisiana will further its goals of ensuring woman considering abortion will be fully informed, and protecting unborn human life.

- SB 528 empowers women to have medically accurate information about their own health and the life of their unborn child before choosing abortion. Currently, Louisiana law only requires that ultrasounds be performed after the 20th week of pregnancy. Through this legislation, all women considering abortion will receive this critical information.
- The Supreme Court has held that the state has an interest in protecting unborn human life (see online for quotes). Through the use of ultrasound, many women may choose to pursue options other than abortion, such as parenting or adoption, and give their child a chance at life.



What does the “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act” do?

SB 528 introduces three new elements to Louisiana’s informed consent for abortion law.

The “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act” would require:

1. an obstetric ultrasound to be performed by a qualified individual at least two hours before every abortion. While the woman would not be compelled to view the ultrasound, the bill does require that the ultrasound screen be positioned so that the woman could choose to view it.
2. that a photographic print of the ultrasound image be provided to the woman in a sealed envelope that she could choose to view before the abortion.
3. that the woman be provided a list of facilities providing ultrasounds free of charge – which include several life-affirming crisis pregnancy centers.

Does the viewing of an ultrasound reduce the chances of abortion?

Yes. Viewing ultrasounds has been shown to help women decide not to abort. In a study done in crisis pregnancy centers, abortion minded and abortion vulnerable women were 2 to 3 ½ times more likely to keep their child after viewing an ultrasound (citation online).

Why now for the “Ultrasound Before Abortion Act”?

It has been 15 years since Louisiana has updated its abortion informed consent law, and SB 528 is a necessary improvement. In addition, in *Gonzales v. Carhart*, 550 U.S. 124 (2007), the Supreme Court encouraged states to enhance their informed consent laws. Check our website for quotes from the case!

Louisiana Right to Life Federation
www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/Ultrasound | 1-866-463-5433
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