

HOUSE BILL 4085: THE ULTRASOUND OPPORTUNITY ACT CORRECTING THE RECORD

Misperception #1: House Bill 4085 mandates trans-vaginal ultrasounds.

Reality: House Bill 4085 does not mandate any type of ultrasound. The requirement is that an offer to view an ultrasound (no type specified) is made prior to an abortion. At all times, any ultrasound or viewing of an ultrasound may be declined. The type of ultrasound will be decided by the doctor and patient.

Misperception #2: House Bill 4085 will force women to accept the additional cost of performing an ultrasound.

Reality: Again, the ultrasounds are not mandated. They can be declined. Second, 99% of abortion facilities perform ultrasounds on patients seeking abortions at the qualifying gestational age defined in the bill (seven weeks), so the cost is already built into the process. Even if the woman asks to see the ultrasound there is no increased cost.

Misperception #3: House Bill 4085 will allow unqualified personnel to perform ultrasounds on women.

Reality: The bill very clearly states that anyone performing an ultrasound must be trained in its usage and compliant with any other requirements of the law.

Misperception #4: House Bill 4085 violates the privacy of patients through reporting requirements.

Reality: The information collected under this bill by the Illinois Department of Public Health will be completely anonymous. It does not require, or seek to acquire, names or other identifying information. It only asks that the facility affirm the question was asked and document anonymous responses.

Misperception #5: House Bill 4085 implies that women do not understand their bodies or are not fully informed about their decisions and could potentially harm the doctor-patient relationship.

Reality: This bill only seeks to add a measure of informed consent. The ultrasounds are already being performed as part of the abortion process. Why should a woman not be offered the opportunity to see the ultrasound? If anything, this bill has the potential to strengthen the doctor-patient relationship by ensuring nothing is hidden and the woman has access to all the information she wants.