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House of Representatives

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Sean Gatewood
Representative, 57th District

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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 91

Chairman Owens and members of the Committee:

I am here today to offer testimony regarding the distribution of informational materials to victims of sexual violence. I am a proponent of this measure because I would always prefer to side with giving more information.

Emergency contraception (sometimes called Plan B) is a drug that is very similar to ordinary birth control; it is simply given at a higher dosage. This drug is something that any woman over the age of 17 can obtain from a pharmacist without a prescription. If the patient is under age they must get a prescription. They have 72 hours to take this medication, following unprotected sex to be effective. This drug is designed to prevent unwanted pregnancies in emergency situations only.

This is not a drug that is used often, and therefore may not be something most women would think of, particularly in a crisis situation. If this drug is used in a timely manner it will prevent unwanted pregnancies. My fear is that women do not think of this option until it is too late for its use.

I hope that this is a common ground provision that we can all agree on to potentially prevent unwanted pregnancies. This simply puts an option in the minds of women that have been victimized when their minds may be too clouded by emotions to think of it themselves without being presented with this information.

This does not affect the consciousness of providers, as it does not force them to dispense, it merely orders the staff to provide information.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to you today.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Gatewood', written over a horizontal line.

Representative Sean Gatewood