

It Can Happen Here

Letter to the Editor, Brunswick Beacon, 09.16.21

For those appalled by the draconian, unconstitutional Texas abortion ban (SB 8), but think it won't affect you here in North Carolina, think again. Even though 74% of North Carolinians agree that government should NOT have a say in a woman's pregnancy decisions, Charles Miller and Frank Iler think they know better. Brunswick County's representatives in the NC General Assembly insist on denying women the right to privacy enshrined in the 14th Amendment and upheld by the Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade.

Miller and Iler have sponsored HB 31, which, like the Texas law, would prohibit abortions after just 6 weeks, before most women even know they are pregnant. There are no exceptions for rape or incest. Unconscionable.

HB 31 is misleadingly named the "Detected Heartbeat/Prohibit Abortion Bill;" it wrongly defines "embryonic cardiac activity" as a "detectable human heartbeat." A heartbeat is caused by the opening and closing of cardiac valves. At six weeks, those valves do not exist. No stethoscope would hear a heartbeat. Medical experts confirm that the ultrasound machine is simply detecting the electrical activity of a group of cells. The sound is manufactured by the ultrasound machine. It does NOT mean there is a viable heart or pregnancy. This is the tip of the iceberg in terms of problems with such bills and laws, but concrete facts are crucial in such a debate.

Thankfully we currently have Democratic governor Roy Cooper to protect us, with his veto, from Republican extremists who cannot wait to deny women their constitutional right to bodily autonomy. But, if that changes in the future, NC Republicans like Charles Miller and Frank Iler have demonstrated that they are eager to make women bend to their uneducated, misogynistic will. They are why voting in every election matters!

Sandra Ford
Chair, Brunswick County Democratic Women
Leland