

House Judiciary Committee – April 19, 2023
Re: Senate Bill 147

Good morning, Chair Breen and members of the committee. I am Rebecca Mastee, representing the Michigan Catholic Conference.

Abortion is not childbirth. Clearly. Yet, Senate Bill 147 would equate elective abortion – the intentional decision to end a pre-born child’s life – with pregnancy and childbirth with respect to privileges of employment, including employer provided benefits. Notice Sec. 202(1)(c) says “a term, condition, or privilege of employment” includes “a benefit plan or system.” No employer should be expected to provide abortion benefits just because they offer insurance coverage or paid leave for pregnancy and maternity care. No one should be forced to support another person’s choice to have an elective abortion – financially or otherwise.

This radical policy change violates federal Constitutional and First Amendment rights of employers with deeply held beliefs against contributing to another’s abortion and will undoubtedly lead to litigation.

Finally, Proposal 3 was not a mandate on private businesses and should never be interpreted as such. Abortion rights supporters frequently mention that abortion is “no one’s business.” Ironically, though, this bill would now make someone’s abortion the business of their employer.

We oppose Senate Bill 147 and encourage committee members to vote No. Thank you for listening to our concerns.