



# ARIZONA WOMEN LEADERS

**To Arizona Governor Doug Ducey and  
Members of the Arizona State Legislature:**

**We the undersigned women, urge you to stop SB 1457.** SB 1457 failed on a vote for final passage in the Arizona State Senate last week, for all the right reasons: It is unconstitutional, it endangers women's health, it endows an unborn fetus with personhood, and it criminalizes the doctor-patient relationship. Nonetheless, it is not "dead." The sponsor could still make a motion for reconsideration and vote the bill again or send it to conference committee.

The stated purpose of the legislation is to prohibit "disability selection" abortions. It makes knowingly performing such an abortion a felony. This ignores the complexity of genetic abnormalities and criminalizes the doctor-patient relationship.

Touted as an anti-discrimination measure, SB 1457 is actually a sweeping bill which endows the unborn with "personhood" at "every stage of development." This is a dangerous concept that pits the rights and well-being of a woman against the fetus she carries.

Laws are blunt instruments; legislation simply cannot anticipate every scenario in this complex medical, legal and ethical minefield. SB 1457 forbids "disability selection" termination for any reason except the life of the mother, meaning even grave threats to her health don't count. How will medical professionals make these fine distinctions? They can't. In practice, they will err on the side of caution, and women will suffer permanent injury or die as a result.

Although the bill can and should be litigated if it passes, we urge the legislature to stop this ridiculous exercise right now. Should they fail, we ask the governor to veto it. Abortion rights lawsuits can cost upwards of a million dollars when plaintiff's fees are included. We feel it is inappropriate for our elected officials to conduct culture wars on the taxpayer's dime.

Too many times Arizona has been in the national spotlight for all the wrong reasons. Extreme legislation like SB 1457 diminishes Arizona's standing and harms businesses here.

For these reasons, we ask you to do the right thing and focus on the very real problems Arizona women are facing: Uneven recovery from the COVID pandemic; dwindling quality educational opportunities for children, lack of living wage employment, and a dearth of affordable childcare. These are issues worthy of your attention.

Sincerely,  
Jodi Liggett, Arizona Center for  
Women's Advancement (ACWA)

Karen Scates  
Community Leader



# ARIZONA WOMEN LEADERS

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