

**Issue:** Women's Rights

**Legislator:** Governor Tom Wolf

**Date:** February 23, 2017

**Content:** Governor Wolf and Rep. Krueger-Braneky Host Roundtable Discussion on Women's Healthcare and Senate Bill 3

Swarthmore, PA – Today, Governor Tom Wolf and Representative Leanne Krueger-Braneky joined advocates and medical professionals for a roundtable discussion to listen to stories and discuss the importance of protecting women's healthcare. They also denounced the fast-tracking of Senate Bill 3 which would eliminate a woman's right to make choices about her own health care in consultation with her doctor.

"I want to thank the members of the General Assembly and advocates who have stood against this bill. Let me be clear: Should Senate Bill 3 reach my desk, I will veto it," Governor Wolf said. "Pennsylvania will not play games with women's healthcare in our Commonwealth. Simply put, this legislation severely limits women's ability to make informed and timely decisions about their own health care options. That is not the place of government."

"Today's personal stories from doctors, medical professionals and local women who have made the agonizing decision to have an abortion only reinforce what so many Pennsylvanians already know," Krueger-Braneky said. "Senate Bill 3 is an anti-women's health bill that will put women in harm's way and insert politicians in a place we don't belong – the very personal, private relationship between a doctor and their patient."

Senate Bill 3 proposes the most extreme restrictions on abortion in the country. It would ban abortions after twenty weeks except in the rarest of circumstances, leaving no exceptions for rape, incest, health or tragic fetal anomalies. The bill would also ban one of the safest methods of second trimester abortions, putting women at risk and taking crucial decisions about their medical care out of the hands of their trusted medical providers.

The Pennsylvania Senate recently passed the bill, despite bi-partisan opposition, through committee and the floor in just three days with limited debate and no expert witnesses or public hearings. The bill now awaits action by the House of Representatives, where a similar version passed last session.

Governor Wolf was joined today by women who have had to make devastating decisions about their pregnancies. If SB 3 were to be passed, women facing the same circumstances would be stripped of their right to make these personal, family decisions.

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