

SUPPORT LAURA'S LAW

AN ACT RELATIVE TO A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO KNOW - HB1541

Support women's health

Named after Laura Hope Smith, a 22-year-old Cape Cod woman who died during an abortion, this law would help prevent future tragedies.

A woman considering abortion should be provided with **the most accurate information available** concerning the physical, psychological and emotional risks and complications associated with abortion.

A woman considering abortion should also be given a **24-hour waiting period** between her request for an abortion and the scheduling of the procedure, **offered an ultrasound** of her preborn child, and **informed of**



Women deserve nothing less.

alternatives to abortion. It should also be made clear to the woman what services are available should she decide to not abort the child.

Any facility in which abortions are performed should be held to

the **same medical standards** as other surgical offices. Women should be treated by an abortion provider under the same careful scrutiny of personnel, procedures and facilities that applies to other surgical providers.



Who is Laura Smith?

Laura Hope Smith was 22 years old when she went to an abortion clinic on Cape Cod. Smith was engaged to her first boyfriend from high school, with whom she had reconnected over the previous year, and was 13 weeks pregnant when she went to Dr. Rapin Osathanondh's office for an abortion. She died later that day.

Prosecutors say Dr. Osathanondh and his staff failed to monitor her while she was anesthetized, delayed calling 911 when her heart stopped, and lied to cover their actions. The doctor was sentenced to 6 months in prison after pleading guilty to involuntary manslaughter.