



CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF GUAM, INC.

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July 9, 2024

The Honorable Joe S. San Agustin, Chairman
COMMITTEE ON GENERAL GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
AND APPROPRIATIONS
37th GUAM LEGISLATURE
Guam Congress Building
163 Chalan Santo Papa
Hagatna, Guam 96910

Subject: Testimony AGAINST Bill 318-37(LS)

Dear Chairman San Agustin and Members of the Committee:

My name is David J. Sablan. I am a resident of Santa Rita. I am also the president of the Concerned Catholics of Guam, Inc., a non-profit organization.

I reviewed Bill 318-37 (“the Bill”), which if passed and signed into law by the Governor, will appropriate \$400,000 from the General Fund to the Bureau of Women’s Affairs, to fund a program called the “Guahan Doula Project.” I hereby submit testimony AGAINST Bill 318-37 (LS).

The Bill cites statistics on “Maternal Mortality Rate” from the Health Resources and Services Administration of the United States. A “maternal mortality,” as defined by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) and the World Health Organization (WHO), is the ***“death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of the end of the pregnancy from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes.”***

Maternal mortality rates are calculated by the NCHS ***“as the number of maternal deaths per 100,000 live births.”*** (underline and emphasis added) - March 20, 2023 Report from Ms. Donna L. Hoyert, Ph.D. of the Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics, presented to the Secretary’s Advisory Committee on Infant and Maternal Mortality.

Section 1 of the Bill cites certain numbers such as the *“island’s maternal mortality rate (MMR) ten-year average from the most recent ten-year period, 2008-2017, at 29.4, is still higher than the U.S. MMR of 23.8 in 2020 (CDC, NCHS, 2022).”* Is the 29.4 island (why not “Guam” instead of “island?!”) maternal deaths an annual average for the ten years from 2008 – 2017; or is it the total number of maternal deaths over the referenced ten-year period? Further, is 29.4 based on 100,000 live births?

Secondly, the NCHS has detailed statistics of what were the causes of these maternal deaths. Yet, Section 1 does not provide any factual details of what caused these deaths, which could be from risky pregnancies, especially with women over the age of 40 years.

Section 1 is flawed, lacking detailed data and misleading in supporting the Intent and purpose of the Bill. These numbers probably don't mean anything toward the actual and real intent of the Bill. In my opinion, these statistics and statements in Section 1 of the Bill is to hide the true purpose of providing funding to the Bureau of Women's Affairs to establish a "Doula Program," which I believe is more intended in "planting the seed" to allow abortions on Guam.

I never heard the word "Doula" before, so I looked up the meaning of the word from several sources. I found how this Doula Project equates to a pathway to abortion on Guam. The definition in Wikipedia for "Doula" is: ". . . a ***non-medical professional*** who provides guidance for the service of others and who supports another person (the doula's client) through a significant health-related experience, such as childbirth, miscarriage, ***induced abortion*** or stillbirth, as well as non-reproductive experiences such as dying." (my emphasis added)

Doulas are not midwives. Midwives are healthcare professionals. So why not allocate funds to the Guam Community College or the University of Guam to fund a midwife training program along with our excellent nursing program? This makes more sense than funding a doula project through the Bureau of Women's Affairs.

In light of all these questions and misleading statistics with no data details to justify the appropriation of \$400,000 government funds, this Doula Project is irrelevant and probably unnecessary in Guam. This Bill is not intended to provide healthcare to pregnant women and the developing babies in their wombs from conception to birth.

In an article in the *Guam Daily Post* dated June 28, 2024, a doula on Guam, Kirsten Rosario, stated that there are ***13 doulas on the island from abortion doulas to postpartum and childbirth doulas*** (my emphasis added). As a person who strongly believes in the protection of the life of a baby from conception to birth, I hope these abortion doulas are not performing abortions.

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, this Bill is a ruse to back-door abortion on the law books of Guam. Those who support abortion on Guam will take the Bill's intent—if it becomes law—which I hope it never will, and craft regulations for this Bill that define and call abortionists as doulas.

Pro-abortion supporters will "sugar-coat" reasons and they will deny the Bill's true intent. These pro-abortion supporters rarely use the word "abortion" in discussing their position in everyday conversations on the subject (they prefer pro-choice, which is soft-speak for abortion), much less describe an abortion procedure because aborting a developing baby from the womb of a woman is so heinous, horrific, and evil, it will make people sick. It may even raise the ire of our community against them and their pro-abortion position.

Aborting a developing baby from the mother's womb is still murder, no other way to describe it. Many do not understand or don't care to think about the procedure to abort a developing child in the womb of a mother or mother-to-be. It is ugly, inhumane, and evil. So, they hide the truth.

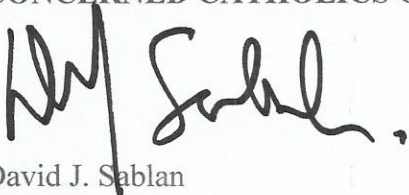
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It has nothing to do with a woman saying, "It's my body and I decide what I can do with my body." A developing baby is not part of the woman's body. The woman's DNA may be connected to the baby's DNA, but the baby in the womb is a separate human being. And it should follow that the nurturing of the baby by the mother will create a bond of motherly love that continues between the mother and the baby after birth.

Selfishness is what abortion is fundamentally all about when people say they support "pro-choice." There's only pro-life or pro-abortion. "Pro-choice" clinics like Planned Parenthood are pro-abortion clinics. They advocate abortion for money. Abortion is a self-destructive way to kill our society in the long term, more so than any war.

Let us not be fooled by all the nice rhetoric in support of the Bill. I encourage you and your colleagues to vote against Bill 318-37 (LS).

Sincerely,
CONCERNED CATHOLICS OF GUAM, INC.



David J. Sablan
President

