

Hello, I am Vanessa and I am a 17 year old high schooler who lives in Richland County.

Today, I took time off of school to tell you that that (I have had enough!)

I believe women should have a choice to HAVE autonomy over their bodies. This ban explicitly disrupts everything we have fought for in this country.

Seemingly, this 6 week abortion ban will not have the impact that you so envisioned. No matter what the ban will do, abortions will still be a practice performed except it will be not only UNSAFE but also HARMFUL.

Putting leeches in her vaginal area

Cayenne pepper,

Lye,

Gunpowder,

Gin,

And many other horrific items,

Ingesting harmful poisons, such as strychnine or powdered ergot, a poisonous fungus

Why would someone do this you may ask:

Because the government never gave her a choice and she was not ready to be a mother.

Fact: Around 25 million unsafe abortions were estimated to have taken place worldwide each year, almost all in developing countries (1).

Fact: Among these, 8 million were carried out in the least- safe or dangerous conditions

Fact: According to the World Health Organization (WHO), every 8 minutes a woman in a developing nation will die of complications arising from an unsafe abortion.

With YOUR ban, these stats may not seem so far away.

So Imagine living in a country where the government tells you what to do with your body, your autonomy and your life... well with your ban.. Women across the state will not have to IMAGINE because it will be our everyday lives and become a reality.

I am just not here urging you today to vote in opposition to the bill, I am urging you today to not just stand for reproductive health but to STAND UP to reproductive justice.

And finally, trust women. And it's time for each and everyone of you to recommit to protecting women's bodies.