Public Health Committee

Public Testimony of the Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF)


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March 9, 2020

The Connecticut Women’s Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF) is a statewide, nonprofit organization that advocates for and empowers women and girls in Connecticut, especially those who are underserved or marginalized. For forty-six years, CWEALF has been a leading advocate in the development of policy solutions that enhance women’s economic security and increase gender equity in our state.


Currently, physicians and medical students conduct pelvic exams on women under anesthesia for educational purposes without getting consent from the patients. Senate Bill 243 will allow a medical school with a residency or clinical training program to perform a pelvic exam on a female patient who is under deep sedation, or unconscious only if the patient or their legal representative gave informed consent to the exam, the exam is in the scope of the surgical procedure or diagnostic exam or is required for diagnostic reasons.

Connecticut needs to join the other 12 states that have been passing similar legislation to S.B. 243 to prohibit medical schools and hospital from treating women’s bodies as a tool for teaching. All people in Connecticut deserve the right to their own bodily autonomy.

CWEALF encourages the Committee to support S.B. 243. Thank you.