TO: Members of the House Health Committee

FROM: Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape

DATE: December 4, 2017

RE: SB 3

The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape (PCAR) works to eliminate all forms of sexual violence and to advocate for the rights and needs of victims of sexual assault. PCAR works with a network of 50 sexual assault centers that bring help, hope, and healing to all of the Commonwealth’s 67 counties.

PCAR opposes Senate Bill 3, which is in the House Health Committee. This bill would restrict the time women and girls can access abortive services from 24 to 20 weeks.

When a woman or girl becomes pregnant as a result of rape or incest, the full range of medial and treatment options must be presented. Victims deserve to have as much time as possible to make decisions regarding reproductive health options that are best for them. Victims often delay or opt not to seek medical care for many possible reasons: shock and fear in the aftermath of trauma, costs/lack of insurance, lack of medical services near them, absence of physical injuries, social stigma, and not realizing that they have become pregnant as a result of rape. Restricting abortion beyond 20 weeks will impose an unjust time limit and hardship on women and girls who have been become pregnant as a result of rape.

We ask that you prioritize the health needs of women and girls throughout the Commonwealth and enable them to continue to access critical care from medical experts when they may find themselves in dire circumstances.

I can be reached at 717-728-9740, ext. 114 or [dgreco@pcar.org](mailto:dgreco@pcar.org) should you wish to further discuss this bill.

Sincerely,   
Donna Greco, Policy Director  
Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape