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Bill would require ultrasounds for abortion candidates who want one

08:41 PM CST on Tuesday, February 24, 2009

By Sherry Williams / 11 News

Pro Life advocates are rallying behind a bill that requires doctors to let a pregnant woman see an ultrasound and hear a fetal heartbeat at least two hours before an abortion, if she chooses.

Video



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The measure got heavyweight [support at the rally from Governor Rick Perry](#), Attorney General Greg Abbott and Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

“It’s not required, but it’s an opportunity to a woman to listen to the sonogram, hear the heartbeat,” said Dewhurst.

One of the bill’s authors is State Senator Dan Patrick of Houston.

A Planned Parenthood of Houston spokeswoman says they already do what the bill requires.

“We give every woman who receives an ultrasound an option to view that ultrasound image,” said Rochelle Tafolla with Planned Parenthood Houston.



AP photo

Despite that, Tafolla said her agency opposes the measure.

“That intrudes on the patient doctor relationship. Every medical, leading medical organization, the American Medical Association, the American Public Health Association, many others opposes this,” she said.

But the director of a pro-life counseling center in Midtown said that the legislation is essential to set a uniform standard.

“The government just wants to make sure that all facilities are doing this,” said Sylvia Johnson with Houston Pregnancy Help Center.

Pro Choice advocates say that if activists want to rally around a cause, how about one on the front end.

“If folks oppose abortion then let’s prevent the unintended pregnancies,” said Tafolla.

The bill has several stages of development to go through, say experts.

They say that it would take effect September 1 if it eventually passes.