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**Statements by Florida House Democrats on First Texas-Style Abortion Bill Filed in Florida**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** – The Florida Legislature saw the first Texas-style abortion bill filed today, of what may be many more related bills to come ahead of the 2022 legislative session. Florida House Democrats issued the following statements in response to this bill that removes an individual’s fundamental right to choose.

"It’s a sad day in the Florida House when legislation like HB167 is filed. This gross excuse of a bill attacks women and birthing people who are seeking an abortion before they even know they are pregnant. It also attempts to mimic Texas by creating a process for civil action towards those that help someone in Florida end a pregnancy after 6 weeks. Extreme attacks on reproductive health are not about policy, it is about control, shame, and will negatively impact communities who already experience barriers to accessing care.

Abortion is health care, abortion is a private medical decision, abortion is personal — and there should be no politicians getting involved between a person and their doctor. I’ll add that this is an economic issue too: we are already seeing businesses in Texas consider relocating and/or allow their staff to relocate to states that are more welcoming towards reproductive health. We can’t attract a talented, diverse workforce when we attack their rights. We must stop these extreme anti-abortion bills and I know the people of Florida overwhelmingly agree," said **Representative Anna V. Eskamani (D-Orlando)**.

"Between implicit bias, inadequate health insurance, and no access to quality health care, pregnancy can be a death sentence for too many of us. A safe and legal abortion is a right and should be a decision kept between women and their doctors," said **Representative Angie Nixon (D-Jacksonville)**.

"The filing of this bill is unconscionable but not unexpected. It is unfortunate that leadership chose to move forward with this type of proposed legislation even after it was condemned, not only by members of the legislature, but also by the people. We have real issues we have to be dealing with, issues such as unemployment, the ongoing pandemic, and making sure people have access to the things they need to live a thriving and equitable life. Abortion is health care. Full stop. An abortion is an incredibly powerful and personal decision people have to make with their doctor. It is not a decision the government should make. I’m fully aware that when we attack people’s right to access safe abortions, the most

marginalized and vulnerable will suffer. Access to safe abortions is not just a health care issue; it is also a justice issue," said **Representative Michele Rayner (D-St. Petersburg)**.

"Women across the state of Florida expected this day to come. HB 167 will take away a woman's right to make personal decisions about her body. This egregious bill essentially takes away a woman's access to abortions. As anyone with a uterus knows, many of us are unaware that we are pregnant at 6 weeks. In Texas, where a similar law was passed, 85-90% of abortions take place after 6 weeks. This law essentially eliminates a woman's right to govern HER body. Abortion is a deeply personal decision between a woman and her doctor-not politicians. Roe v. Wade has been the law since I was a child and I assumed the right to govern my body would always be there. Seventy-seven percent of Americans support Roe v. Wade and the right to access – we must let our voices be heard. I am fighting for my daughters and women everywhere – our body, our decision," said **Representative Robin Bartleman (D-Weston)**.

"This recently-filed bill is just another example of extremists chipping away at our constitutional rights and bodily autonomy. This draconian bill will only drag us back to a time, not so long ago, when desperate women were forced to jeopardize their health and safety in order to access safe reproductive health care. If passed, this law will disproportionately impact low-income women and Women of Color, further perpetuating a cycle of racial and socioeconomic inequality. Terminating a pregnancy is a deeply personal decision that should be solely up to the woman, not by lawmakers who will never face the consequences of such a choice," said **Representative Felicia Robinson (D-Miami Gardens)**.

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