



May 4, 2023

Speaker Tim Moore  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Legislative Building  
16 W Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

Speaker Pro Tempore Sarah Stevens  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Legislative Building  
16 W Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC 27601

*RE: Small business opposition to SB 20*

Dear Speaker Moore, Speaker Pro Tempore Stevens and Majority Leader Bell:

As a representative of the 994,000 small businesses in North Carolina, Small Business Majority strongly encourages you to oppose SB 20, legislation that would ban abortion procedures except in very limited instances. Restricting access to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, including abortion, threatens the health, independence, and economic stability of women small business owners and their employees.

Small Business Majority is a small business organization that empowers entrepreneurs to build a thriving and equitable economy. As part of our commitment to advocate for public policy solutions that promote inclusive small business growth, we would like to highlight the negative impacts of SB 20 on the economic drivers of North Carolina.

We know from our research that access to reproductive healthcare is an essential component of primary and preventative care, and it's vital to current and aspiring entrepreneurs. In fact, a Small Business Majority [opinion poll](#) revealed that access to reproductive healthcare is important to women small business owners, especially for women of color, and is a critical component of their ability to move forward in their careers and launch new businesses. In particular, 79% of women entrepreneurs agreed access to reproductive healthcare is paramount to their financial wellbeing. What's more, a majority said having access to reproductive healthcare to determine if and when to have children is fundamental to obtaining financial security.

In a state where women make up nearly half of the state's entire workforce and own nearly 45% of all small businesses, passing SB 20 would create detrimental ripple effects on the state's economy and impair our ability to build diverse and inclusive workforce pipelines, recruit top talent across the state, and protect the well-being of all the people who keep our businesses thriving day in and out. What's more, [research](#) shows that state-level abortion restrictions cost the U.S. economy an estimated \$105 billion, annually. This is largely due to its impact on women's labor force participation and earning levels, thus creating additional barriers for women to start their own enterprises.

Banning abortion services to those who may seek them will have professional and economic impacts for years to come. For the good of North Carolina's small business community, we urge you to oppose laws that further ban abortion or access to reproductive healthcare.

Sincerely,

Rachel Shanklin  
National Women's Entrepreneurship Director  
Small Business Majority

cc: The Honorable Governor Roy Cooper  
Office of the Governor  
116 W Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603