

Democrats Urge County Commission to Drop Abortion Restriction Quest

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The Manatee County Democratic Party recognizes a women's autonomy over her own body. Democrats support the right of women to make their own reproductive decisions and therefore recognize government interference with these personal decisions as oppression of women.

In a frightening turn of events, the Manatee County Commission recently supported Commissioner James Satcher's proposal to utilize taxpayer money to push forward two proposals that would reduce a woman's ability to make her own reproductive decisions. Similar to Texas' Heartbeat Act, the first proposal would restrict access to abortion by mandating that an abortion cannot be performed once a heartbeat is detected. The second proposal is to financially incentivize women to have babies, presumably with taxpayer funds.

The County Commission does not have the authority, nor the responsibility to pursue abortion restrictions in the county. The Commission, rather than dealing with county business as they were elected to do, have decided to utilize taxpayer dollars to require the county attorney's office to investigate how Manatee County can become the most restrictive county in the state for access to abortion.

These efforts will lead to significant costs by the county as it faces significant legal challenges.

The Manatee County Democratic Party urges the County Commission to drop this expensive folly. If the Commission is interested in reducing abortion in the county they should look to increasing access to birth control, which is proven to reduce abortion by reducing unwanted pregnancy.

Tracy Pratt, Chair
Manatee County Democratic Party