

March 7, 2022, Issue 9

Happy Women's History Month - Healthcare

Healthcare

SB456 passed the Senate. It outlaws ordering abortion-inducing medication by mail and requires in-person doctors visit and an ultrasound exam in order to access the drugs.

SB496 would require autopsies in cases of maternal deaths. This is an effort to improve the state's dismal status as one of the lowest in maternal survival (49th out of 50 states). Sen. Dean Burke (R-11, Bainbridge), the bill's sponsor and a retired gynecologist, called the ranking "the bane of my existence".

HB937 passed to allow Medicaid coverage for annual mammograms. Insurers would be required to notify women in writing when they turn 40 to get a mammogram.

HB1400 passed to expand the number of licenses for medical marijuana.

SB403 passed unanimously to allow behavioral health professionals to accompany law enforcement when they respond to calls involving mental health issues. A follow-up for incarcerated individuals who could be better treated in a mental health facility is also included.