



POLITICS & GOVERNMENT

Kentucky lawmaker spoofs anti-abortion measures with Viagra bill

BY JOHN CHEVES

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February 12, 2016 04:26 PM

FRANKFORT — What's good for the goose is good for the gander.

Angered by several anti-abortion bills this winter with language restricting a woman's relationship with her doctor, Democratic state Rep. Mary Lou Marzian fired back Thursday with a bill to limit men's access to Viagra and other erectile-dysfunction drugs.

[House Bill 396](#) warns men of the health risks of sexual-enhancement pills — “such as an erection that will not go away and lasts more than four hours, sudden vision loss in one or both eyes, and sudden hearing decrease” — and it

requires them to have two visits with their doctor on separate days before they get a prescription, so they have time to truly consider what they're doing.

Even after two visits, doctors could only prescribe the pills to men who are married, with a signed and dated letter from their spouse confirming plans to use the pills together. Finally, the man must place his hand on the Bible and swear that he will use the pills to have sex with "his current spouse."

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Much of the bill's sentiment, and some of its precise language, mirrors the anti-abortion bills moving through the 2016 General Assembly, such as requiring women to [undergo ultrasounds before an abortion](#) and [attend "informed consent" consultations](#) 24 hours in advance of the procedure.

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That's not a coincidence, said Marzian, a retired Louisville nurse since 1994.

"I just thought my 80 male colleagues in the House might like to consider what it feels like when legislators get between them and their physicians," she said Friday. "I filed it to make a point, that a bunch of laypersons with no medical training should not be making medical decisions for Kentucky women."

After getting favorable emails and phone calls about her bill on Friday, Marzian said she might ask for it to be heard by the House Health and Welfare Committee, "and, hey, let's see where it goes."

About 80 percent of the House members are men, and nearly half are 60 or older.

Opponents of the "informed consent" abortion bill also took to Twitter Friday, directing ire at Gov. Matt Bevin for ceremonially signing the measure into law Thursday. The [hashtag #askbevinaboutmyvag](#) was the top trending topic on Twitter in Louisville Friday afternoon.

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As originally written by Senate Republicans, Senate Bill 4 would require that women have a face-to-face meeting with their doctor at least 24 hours before getting an abortion to hear of the medical risks and benefits, of the legal responsibilities of the man who impregnated them, and of adoption alternatives should they choose to give birth. House Democrats amended the bill to add the option of a live video chat between women and their doctors.

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Sandra Haus Grady ·

University of Maryland

Buying Viagra pills does not in any way compare to a woman going through a nine month pregnancy, often sick, has to stop working for 6 months or more..then either raise the child or give it up for adoption..both difficult things to do. Men only have to enjoy the sexual experience..with no pain, no gut wrenching, life changing decisions to make. Therefore..men...stay the Hell out of women's business!

Like · Reply · 4 · Feb 18, 2016 8:23am



Mark Franklin Rossow ·

Works at Intertek-Building Science Solutions & Intertek-PSI

Not a big deal to any man who can afford the time & expense of a plane ticket & hotel stay. This will only affect men who have no saved up money, no high available-credit limit, no timetime to be away from work or family duties. Think about it.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 17, 2016 7:00pm



Thomas Jones

Wow, The Marzian is so funny! Gosh, if only there were some way to kill more babies. </sarcasm> Hey, Marzian, go find a Biology 100 textbook ... the definition of life is usually on page 1. What a sicko dingbat.

Like · Reply · Feb 16, 2016 6:56am



Thomas Jones

Against murder? Don't murder.

Like · Reply · Feb 18, 2016 5:01am



Louis Maramba



Laura veremakis ·
St. Louis

If you believed every woman who had a fertilized egg on day one was bearing undeniable life then you would make it so that every woman, regardless of age because of the miracles of science, is protected from any risk to that "egg" from day one. Every man would march his woman into a clinic for a test immediately after fornication to measure her state. Let me see can you do that? Hell no. Even stress can cause such a weak hold on existence to simply flow away. You are a tool who is only educated on the use of your own member and not reality.

Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 28, 2016 7:01am



Otis Milkweed ·
Assistant Manager at Self-Employed

Another sorry attempt at satire on a very serious issue. A lot of praise for a bill going nowhere, not changing anything and trivializing an act that stops a living, beating heart.

Like · Reply · Feb 15, 2016 6:27pm · Edited



Jane Cox ·
McKendree University

You go girl!!!!

Like · Reply · 3 · Feb 15, 2016 9:24am



Evans Janet ·
San Francisco, California

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 14, 2016 4:31pm



Juanita Kerrick ·
Owensboro Sr. High

Thank you, Representative Marzian. Please do ask for it to be hear in the H & W Committee....too good of a bill to be used only to make a point, but point well made! Dare we hope it could make it out of committee?!

Like · Reply · 2 · Feb 14, 2016 3:36pm



Linda Hines Simon

What really galls me is any man making any laws solely affecting women only. I tell you what, do any congressmen in the entire country have the guts to bring up a bill concerning term limits? I think it's time we stop letting them make a career of being lawmakers.

Like · Reply · 8 · Feb 13, 2016 8:55pm



Matthew Smith ·
Professor at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Puh-leeze. Women make laws that affect men only all the time.

Like · Reply · 1 · Feb 14, 2016 8:14pm



Linda Hines Simon
sounds like a personal problem to me

Like · Reply · Feb 15, 2016 9:56am



Thomas Jones
Oh yes. We should follow your brilliant logic on everything. Only doctors who have had cancer should be allowed to treat it. Only people who have been in a 5 car pileup should be able to be first responders to such accidents. Only people who are men should be able to climb down manholes. Wheew. Where would we be without the brilliant insights of Linda Hines Simon!?

Like · Reply · Feb 16, 2016 7:01am

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Cathy Vanover Bunch

Premeditated murder of innocent, unborn children, no matter the circumstances of their conception, is not a medical decision.

Like · Reply · 5 · Feb 13, 2016 7:32pm



Iskra Benton
Correct. It's a personal one. Mind your own damn business. Lol. And it's not murder. And I'm a doctor too 😊

Like · Reply · 18 · Feb 13, 2016 8:17pm



Rosemary Diana Stilson ·
Choffin career center Adult Class Diverdsified office training

hey cathy, what if their conception wasnt out of love ,what if it was brought on by Rape or incest? i think it is a personal choice You dont know someone situation.

Like · Reply · 7 · Feb 13, 2016 11:34pm



Ben Allen ·



Ben Allen

Sanford, North Carolina

Iskra Mathura Humanity is everyone's business. It legally isn't murder - yet. No one cares that you are a doctor. Do you think that gives you some sort of moral authority?

Like · Reply ·  1 · Feb 14, 2016 10:28pm

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Joseph Medley

University of Kentucky

Dont know about your husband Marzian but that pledge of fidelity was made at the marriage ceremony of any ceremony I ever attended.

Like · Reply · Feb 13, 2016 7:16pm

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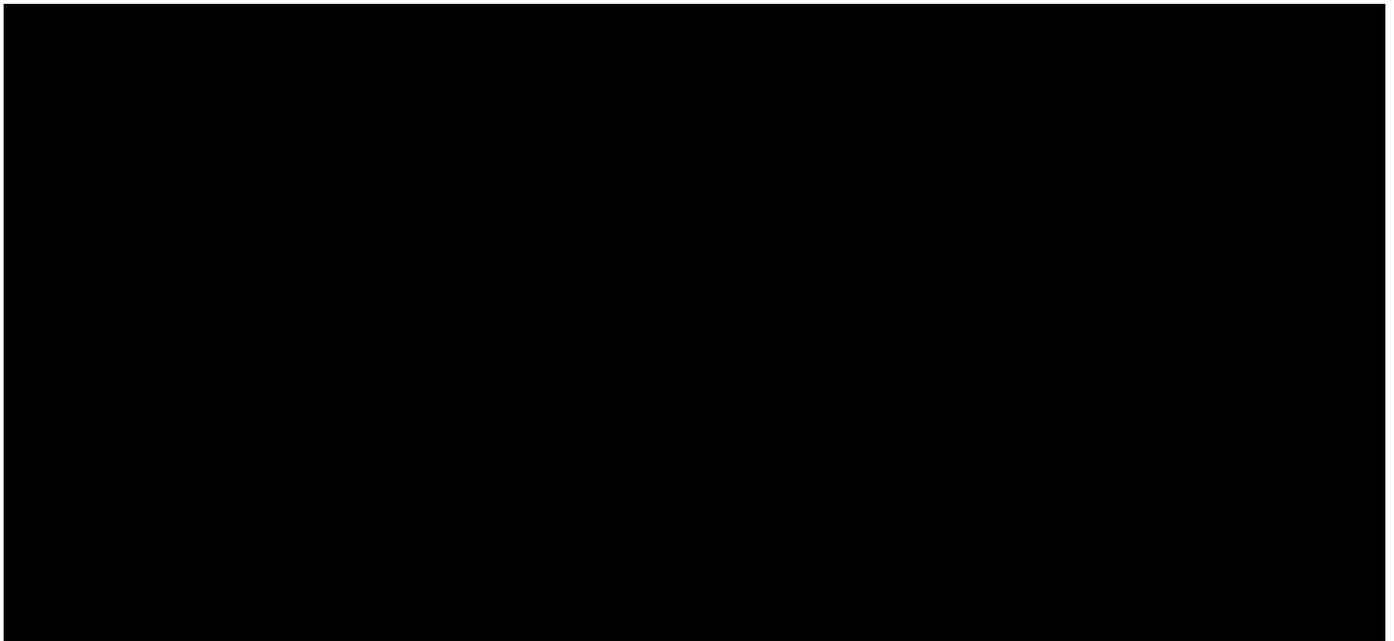
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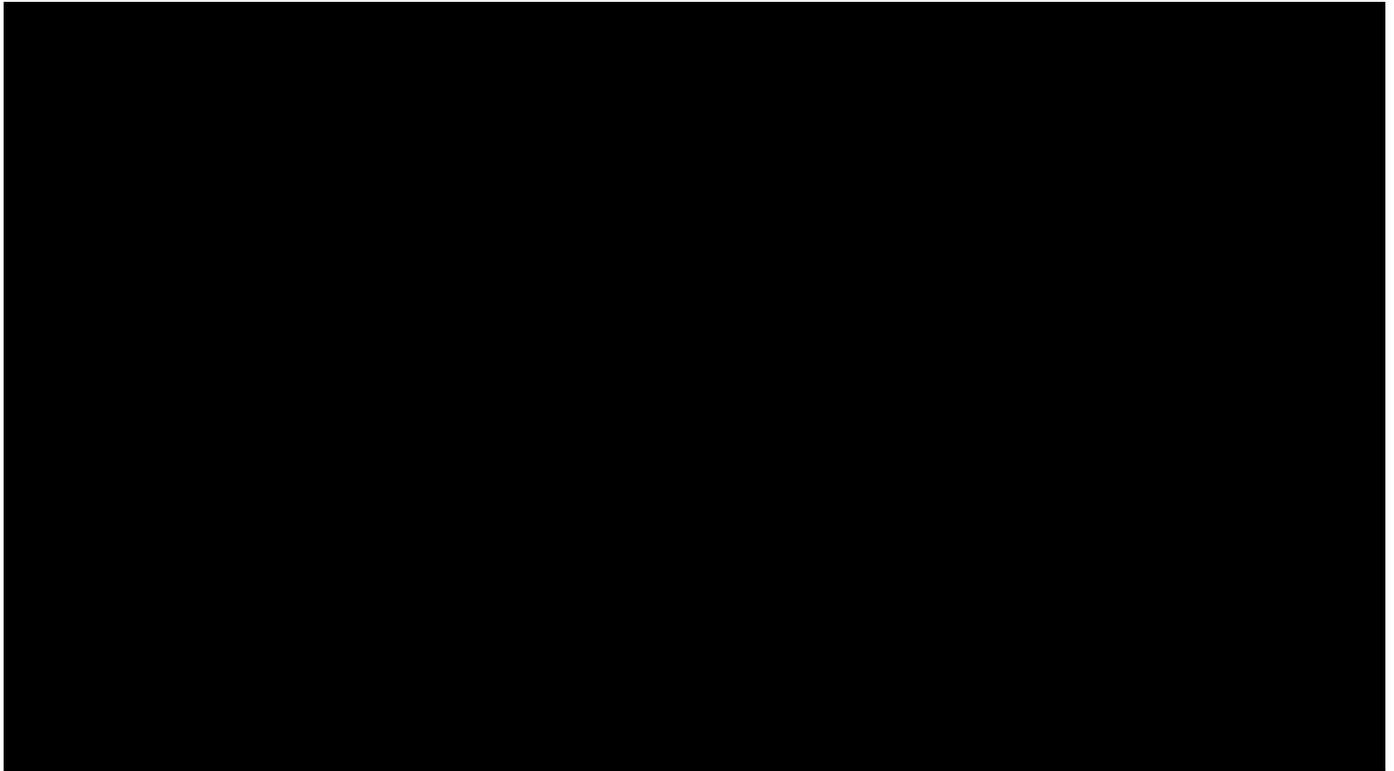
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