

Committee approves bill that would require accommodations for pregnant and nursing women

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Salt Lake City, Utah- (ABC 4 Utah) – A bill that could change the work environment for pregnant and nursing women cleared its first hurdle at the Capitol.

Personal experience brought Delanne Jessop Haslam to the Capitol on Tuesday.

She says her pregnancy with her daughter, Presley brought a lot of complications.

She says it took its toll her health, home life and work.

"They fired me 20 days before I gave birth. I lost my insurance, my job obviously, our marriage didn't survive," said Haslam.

She went before the Senate Business and Labor Committee to share her story and support Senate Bill 59.

"A lot of women in these situations, they are somewhat helpless. They don't want to lose their job and yet they want to be treated with dignity," said State Senator, Todd Weiler, (R) Woods Cross.



Weiler's bill would take current law a step further by requiring businesses with 15 employees or more to make "reasonable accommodations" for women who are pregnant or nursing.

Accommodations like shorter shifts, more breaks, a stool to sit on or an assignment with less lifting.

Some are concerned employees will take advantage of the law and say that could put an undue burden on business owners.

"I'm against the bill, because it's going to open the door for a lot of other discrimination type charges and employers aren't enemies, they have to make their businesses run," said Dorthy Bradford, who testified before the committee.

But, Haslam says she'll keep fighting, because she doesn't want anyone else to experience the burden she has.

"We're facing medical bankruptcy, I can't pay any of the medical bills. I mean, it's affected every single area of my life," said Haslam.

SB 59 passed committee on a unanimous vote, it is now off to the senate.

Weiler says he believes most Utah companies are already complying with what he is proposing.