

# Stewardship of Reproductive Healthcare in South Carolina

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## **OBJECTIVES**

 Understand immediate and long-term consequences of abortion bans on reproductive health

 Recognize how abortion bans harm the ability to practice evidence-based medicine in all fields of medicine





News Releases Jul 7, 2022 More Than 75 Health Care Organizations Release Joint Statement in Opposition to Legislative Interference

Our patients need to be able to access—and our clinicians need to be able to provide—the evidence-based care that is right for them, including abortion, without arbitrary limitations, without threats, and without harm.

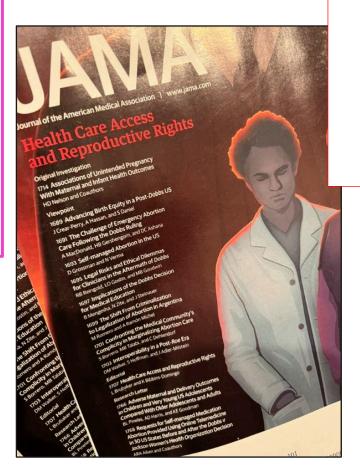
American Medical Association; Academy of Family Physicians; American Academy of Pediatrics; American Board of Internal Medicine; American Board of Surgery; American Board of Anesthesiology; and over 75 more

## Major Medical Journals Agree: Abortion is Essential Healthcare

### THE LANCET

"If the US Supreme Court confirms its draft decision, women will die. The Justices who vote to strike down Roe will not succeed in ending abortion, they will only succeed in ending safe abortion. Alito and his supporters will have women's blood on their hands."

See Editorial page 10



The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

#### EDITORIALS



Lawmakers v. The Scientific Realities of Human Reproduction

The Editors



## **Definitions of Abortion**

- Threatened Abortion
- Incomplete Abortion
- Spontaneous Abortion
  - 23 million a year globally;
    28% of all fertilizations
- Missed Abortion
- Induced Abortion 18%
- Medication Abortion
  - 54% in the US, 74% in SC





## Setting the Stage

# Current South Carolina law = abortion is legal up to 21 weeks, 6 days

- Lethal fetal anomalies and lifethreatening maternal illness
- 18% of all fertilizations in the United States
- 1 in 4 women access abortion care in their lifetime

### Medication Abortion is Legal is South Carolina

- 74% of all terminations
- SC is one of only 3 states that criminalizes self-managed abortion
- SC does not allow medication abortion by telemedicine.



## Pregnancy is not a Benign Condition

The mortality rate associated with abortion is low (0.6 per 100,000

legal, induced abortions)

ABORTION IS
A SAFE AND
SIMPLE HEALTH
INTERVENTION

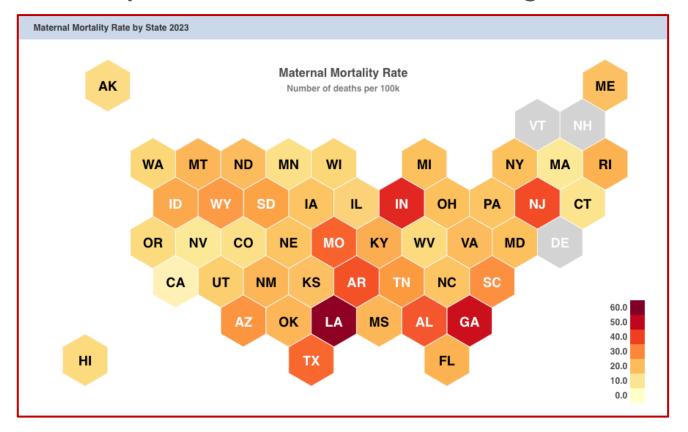
 Risk of death associated with childbirth (Maternal Mortality) in USA is approximately 32.9 per 100,000 pregnancies, up from 23.8 in 2020

Raymond EG, Grimes DA. The comparative safety of legal induced abortion and childbirth in the United States. Obstet Gynecol 2012;119:215–9. (Level III) [PubMed] [Obstetrics & Gynecology]



## Pregnancy is not a Benign Condition

 Maternal Mortality in South Carolina is 27.9 per 100,000 births, ranking in the top ten of worst states to give birth.



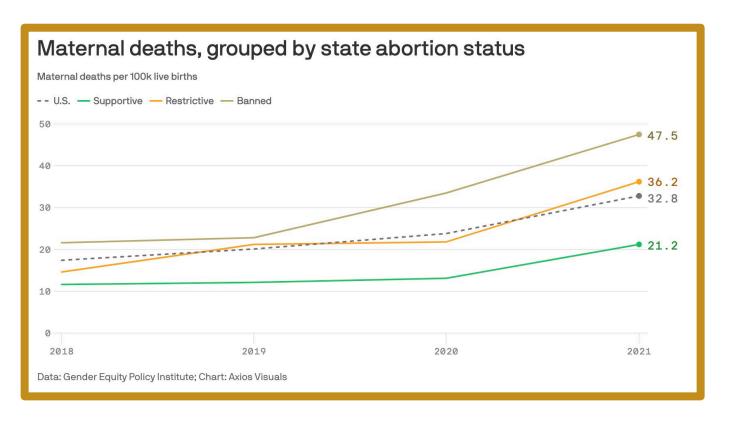
Raymond EG, Grimes
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in the United States.
Obstet Gynecol
2012;119:215–9. (Level
III) [PubMed] [Obstetrics
& Gynecology]

Hoyert DL. Maternal mortality rates in the United States, 2020. NCHS Health E-Stats. 2022.

DOI: <a href="https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc:113967">https://doi.org/10.15620/cdc:113967</a>.



## Pregnancy is not a Benign Condition

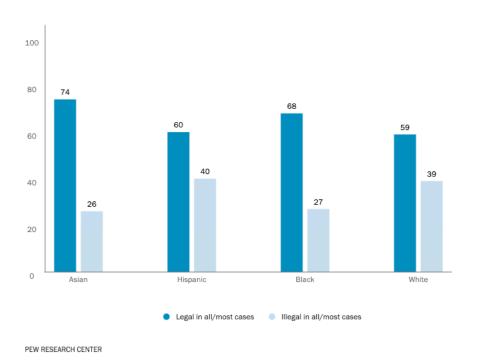


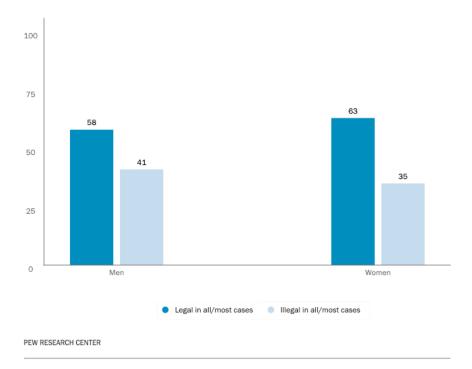
- The U.S. has the highest maternal mortality among developed nations, made worse by abortion restrictions
- Women in states with abortion bans are nearly 3x more likely to die during pregnancy



## **Public Opinion on Abortion- Favorable**

• 61% say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 37% say it should be illegal in all or most cases.







# Consequences of Abortion Bans and Personhood Laws

- Medical morbidity and mortality, diminishes medical profession
- Legal implications for IVF, taxes, criminal statutes, constitutional rights
- Economic decreased economic mobility
  - Denying a woman an abortion creates economic hardship and insecurity which lasts for years.
  - Women turned away from getting an abortion are more likely to stay in contact with a violent partner. They are also more likely to raise the resulting child alone.
  - The financial wellbeing and development of children is negatively impacted when their mothers are denied abortion.
- Personal –the ability to make personal choices is integral to the growth of humans



## Abortion Bans Endanger Actual Lives-Experiences During Ban 2022

- Medications not available to women of reproductive age
- Miscarriages not treated appropriately, people not seeking care
- Mistrust Menstrual history not shared due to fear of 'tracking'
- Dilation and Curettage (D&C) -
  - "You can't do that because that surgery is illegal now."
- Insurance giants changing actuarial tables decreased life expectancy for women, increased premiums



# **Abortion Bans Endanger Actual Lives- Experiences During Ban 2022**

- Ectopic pregnancy has cardiac activity 'can we operate?'
- IUD failed; patient threatened suicide
- PPROM patient told to 'wait it out in North Carolina'
- Mediastinal mass; no surgery/chemo available
- Increase in BTL requests surgical risk, availability
- Breaking news: 4x terminations



# Abortion Bans Endanger Medical Training and Health Systems

- Abortion training opportunities are required for accreditation of residency programs
  - SC programs already planning out-of-state training, with its accompanying licensure and logistic issues.
- Female students/residents with forced pregnancy
  - Leave of absence, childcare during clerkships, forgo medical degree.
  - Contributes to the current physician shortage.



# Abortion Bans Endanger Medical Training and Health Systems

- Medical education degraded if abortion skills can not be taught
  - Puts personal beliefs/ideology over patient beliefs about what is best for themselves given risks/benefits
  - Can't perform <u>informed</u> consent
  - 'Carve outs' for exceptions do not address individual patient circumstances, beliefs, priorities
- Health care system is predominantly staffed by females
  - Already short-staffed, health systems suffer as a larger fraction of the workforce is forced to be pregnant, have complications, or travel for abortion care.



### **ACOG Guidance:**

# "Understanding and Navigating Medical Emergency Exceptions in Abortion Bans and Restrictions"

• "ACOG has long affirmed that medical knowledge is not static... Fundamentally, there is no one-size-fits-all law that can take every individual, family, or medical condition into account, making legislative interference in the practice of medicine incredibly dangerous."

https://www.acog.org/news/news-articles/2022/08/understanding-medical-emergency-exceptions-in-abortion-bans-restrictions



## Abortion Bans Endanger Availability of all Physicians in SC

BUSINE

### A challenge for antiabortion states: Doctors reluctant to work there

Recruiters say OB/GYNs are turning down offers, a warning for conservative-dominated states already experiencing shortages



- Recruiters struggling to get physicians to consider coming to SC because of the overt legislative interference in the practice of medicine –
  - Climate of hostility, criminalization towards doctors and other health care workers
- Right of conscience to provide care according to training
  - Evidence-based, standard of care option as approved by all major medical societies



## Abortion Bans Endanger Availability of all Physicians

### Los Angeles Times

Column: As professionals flee antiabortion policies, red states face a brain drain

- Chaos and delay on our health care teams
  - Detracts time and resources from other patient care
  - Patient perceive the confusion, leads to distrust
  - 'Carve outs' for exceptions seeks to stigmatize abortions in the guise of being 'merciful' to only extreme cases

SC abortion bill allowing death penalty grabbed

headlines. But it's going nowhere.



BY SEANNA ADCOX SADCOX@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

# SC Chapters of Other Medical Associations and SC OB/GYN Society

Over 600 health care professionals from across the state of South Carolina signed the open letter to state lawmakers opposing legislation restricting reproductive health care.

This makes it clear that the health care community in South Carolina is firmly opposed to political interference in the patient-clinician relationship.











June 30, 2022

The South Carolina Section of the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology, representing over 700 obstetrician-gynecologists across our state, condemns the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The findings in this decision overrule decades of legal precedent that have ensured access to comprehensive family planning, including both contraception and abortion. ACOG South Carolina Section continues to support access to safe and legal pregnancy termination which is essential to reproductive health and supports access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care. We are also joined in our support of access to safe and legal abortion by the SC Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, SC Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the South Carolina Oncology Society.



# Letter Campaign: acog.org/StopSCbans



Take Action—Sign the open letter to patients acog.org/stopSCbans





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### Open Letter from South Carolina Health Care Professionals

#### to Protect Access to All Reproductive Care

the South Carolina legislature is once again moving to advance grave restrictions on reproductive health care. Health car professionals across the state are speaking out against these attempts to criminalize abortion care.

#### To our patients, we want you to know: You matter, Your decisions matter,

We will not stop fighting for your ability to choose when and if to be pregnant. Bans on abortion are an affront to the medica ethics of bodily autonomy and endanger the safety and privacy of our patients.

To our patients who are facing an unintended pregnancy or considering abortion; you are not alone. Abortion is common -1 in

As your physicians, we will not stop fighting to ensure your access to care. All major health care organizations, including the American Acidege of Obstatricians and Oynocologist. He American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Family Physicians, agree that access to abortion is part of comprehensive medical care. More

The signers of this document believe in your right to take care of yourself. Read on for a list of facts that may be critical to you reproductive health as you navigate the post-Roe landscape.

- Whether carried out by medication or a procedure, abortion is a safe medical intervention. An abortion does not affect a
  person's ability to have a healthy pregnancy in the future or increase the risk of breast cancer, mental health disorder, or
  infertility.
- 2. The legal environment for South Carolina's ban on abortion after six weeks of pregnancy (once fetal cardiac activity is present) is in flux, and we know this can be confusing and frightening. We are here to answer our patients' questions and provide the best information we can about the care that is available, and resond to any changes in abortion access.
- There are resources available to patients considering their pregnancy options. The American College of Obstetricians are Cynecologists has factual information regarding abortion care, and practical resources at acog.org/abortioninfo

The ability to control your reproduction is key to your health, economic mobility, and educational opportunities. Decisionmaking about your own body is a basic value in medicine, and it allows you to be an authority about your own life. Visit acoc.ora/abortionisessential for more information.

#### Our Message to South Carolina Legislators:

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## **Negatively Affects all Medical Specialties**



**Medical News & Perspectives** 

October 12, 2022

### Threats to Evidence-Based Care With Teratogenic Medications in States With Abortion Restrictions

Rita Rubin, MA

JAMA. 2022;328(17):1671-1673. doi:10.1001/jama.2022.11489



Medical News Website



Medical News Website





COMMENTARY | VOLUME 87, ISSUE 5, P1225-1226, NOVEMBER 2022

#### The Supreme Court abortion ban impact on dermatology

Jenna Yousif, BA • Taylor Adlam, MD • Jane M. Grant-Kels, MD 😕 🖂 • Mehdi Farshchian, MD, PhD

Published: July 18, 2022 • DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jaad.2022.07.026 • (I) Check for updates



July 13, 2022

### Reproductive Rights in Neurology—The Supreme Court's Impact on All of Us

Sara C. LaHue, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; Dawn Gano, MD, MAS<sup>1,3</sup>; Riley Bove, MD, MSc<sup>1,2</sup>

Author Affiliations

IAMA Neurol 2022-79(10)-961-962 doi:10.1001/jamaneurol 2022.234

Views 2.994 | Citations 0 | Altmetric 42

#### Viewpoint

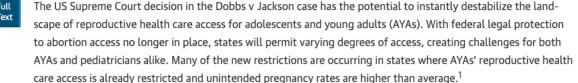
August 15, 2022

### The Pediatrician in the Post-Roe Landscape

Tracey A. Wilkinson, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup>; Julie Maslowsky, PhD<sup>2</sup>; Elise D. Berlan, MD, MPH<sup>3,4</sup>

Author Affiliations

JAMA Pediatr. 2022;176(10):967-968. doi:10.1001/jamapediatrics.2022.2868



# **Negatively Affects all Medical Specialties**

> JAMA Psychiatry. 2023 Feb 8. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.4962. Online ahead of print.

#### **Abortion Restriction and Mental Health**

Katherine L Wisner 1, Paul S Appelbaum 2

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36753289 DOI: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2022.4962

No abstract available

> Acad Emerg Med 2022 Dec;29(12):1414-1421. doi: 10.1111/acem.14609. Epub 2022 Nov 3.

#### Post-Roe emergency medicine: Policy, clinical, training, and individual implications for emergency clinicians

Margaret E Samuels-Kalow <sup>1</sup>, Pooja Agrawal <sup>2</sup>, Giovanni Rodriguez <sup>1</sup>, Amy Zeidan <sup>3</sup>, Jennifer S Love <sup>4</sup>, Derek Monette <sup>1</sup>, Michelle Lin <sup>5</sup>, Richelle J Cooper <sup>6</sup>, Tracy E Madsen <sup>7</sup>, Valerie Dobiesz <sup>8</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36268814 PMCID: PMC9772035 (available on 2023-12-01) DOI: 10.1111/acem.14609





Editorial > Cureus. 2022 Nov 14;14(11):e31506. doi: 10.7759/cureus.31506. eCollection 2022 Nov.

### Abortion Is a Right: Perspectives of Family Medicine Physician Residents

Anita Vasudevan <sup>1</sup>, Briga Mullin <sup>1</sup>, Reece Fenning <sup>1</sup>, Guille Freschl <sup>1</sup>, Jacqueline Mostow <sup>2</sup>, Hannah Bogen <sup>3</sup>, Aljanee Whitaker <sup>3</sup>, Zach Anderson <sup>4</sup>, Alex Su <sup>5</sup>, Seethim Naicker <sup>5</sup>, Yvonne Chow <sup>6</sup>, Jennifer Tsai <sup>6</sup>, Basilia Oseguera <sup>7</sup>, Justin Chin <sup>7</sup> <sup>8</sup>

Affiliations + expand

PMID: 36540456 PMCID: PMC9754741 DOI: 10.7759/cureus.31506

Free PMC article

## **Abortion** is

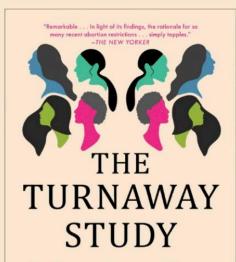
- √ safe
- ✓ lifesaving
- **√** common
- √ necessary
- **Vessential health care**







https://www.uptodate.com/contents/pregnancy-termination-and-potential-psychiatric-outcomes/



Ten Years, a Thousand Women, and the Consequences of Having or Being Denied—an Abortion

DIANA GREENE FOSTER, PhD

"If you read only one book about democracy, this should be it. Why? Because without the power to make decisions about our own bodies, there is no democracy."

-Gloria Steinem



## Call to Action

5 Calls: Contact Your Congress 4.
The latest actions in politics
5 Calls Civic Action
#11 in Reference
\*\*\*\*\* 4.5 \* 2.1K Ratings
Free



- 1. Donate to abortion funds.
  - https://www.carolinaabortionfund.org/
- 2. Donate to independent abortion clinics at <a href="Keep Our Clinics">Keep Our Clinics</a>. <a href="https://keepourclinics.org/">https://keepourclinics.org/</a>
- 3. Learn how to provide abortion care <a href="https://rhedi.org/topic/aspiration-abortion/">https://rhedi.org/topic/aspiration-abortion/</a>
- 4. Advocate with your state chapter of your medical association
- 5. Become knowledgeable about abortion laws in South Carolina.
  - https://reproductiverights.org/maps https://www.scwren.org/take-legislative-action/
- 6. Find out where all your lawmakers stand on abortion rights. <a href="https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php">https://www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php</a>





# Thank you

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