

RESOLUTION

Subject: The Fallout of Banning Abortion in Kentucky

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) all have policy statements supporting the evidence-based right to abortion. According to ACOG, “abortion is an essential component of comprehensive medical care, and people need unimpeded access to the full spectrum of reproductive health care options” that is based on evidence-based medicine¹; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Medical Association’s current policy is not supportive of the right to an abortion and places many restrictions on who, where and when an abortion may be performed²; and

WHEREAS, regardless of personal belief, a “clinician must be able to provide unbiased, factual information to patients regarding their reproductive health care options”¹ without interference from the government in this sacred doctor-patient relationship; and

WHEREAS, half of U.S. counties do not have a single OB-GYN³. The U.S. Health Resources & Services Administration revealed that more than half of Kentucky’s 120 counties had no dedicated OB-GYN in 2020 and 2021; and

WHEREAS, the physician shortage in Kentucky will continue to worsen. Until now, 55.5% of physician residents practiced medicine in the state where they trained². Kentucky now not only faces the challenge of training residents in how to provide and manage induced abortions, spontaneous abortions, miscarriages, and the wide array of pregnancy losses from other reasons⁴, it also faces the challenge of retaining these doctors with the knowledge that they cannot practice the full scope of their field without the threat of penalties or incarceration; and

WHEREAS, Kentucky’s abortion ban will ultimately lead to an overall increase of 21% in maternal mortality⁵. According to CDC reports between 2018 and 2020, Kentucky’s rate of maternal mortality was already double the nationwide rate at 30 deaths per 100,000 live births; and

WHEREAS, with the threat to reproductive medicine, there will be an overall decrease in reproductive services, specifically to in vitro fertilization⁶ and genetic testing; and

WHEREAS, pregnancies with significant congenital anomalies that must now come to term will lead to significant financial strain and require many resources; and

WHEREAS, there will be an increased financial burden to the Department of Medicaid Services with increased recipients, increased foster children, decreased work force, increased mental health disease, increased violence, and increased taxes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA immediately sunset its current policy on abortion; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA adopt as its policy to stand united in opposition to the banning of abortion in Kentucky; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA change its current policy on abortion, basing it on current evidence-based medicine, recognizing the FDA-approved medications used for spontaneous and voluntary abortions and the impact these policies have on in vitro fertilization; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for maintaining the privacy and confidentiality between a patient and their physician and that the intrusion of non-medical organizations on the privacy of reproductive health decisions between a patient and her physician be opposed by the KMA in its policy statements.

References:

¹ www.acog.org/news/news-articles/2022/05/understanding-acog-policy-on-abortion

² <https://kyma.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/2021-2022-KMA-POLICY-MANUAL.pdf>

³ <https://www.aamc.org/news-insights/labor-pains-ob-gyn-shortage>

⁴ Alicia Ault. Roe v. Wade Overturned, Ending 50 Years of Abortion Protections - *Medscape* - Jun 24, 2022.

⁵ <https://read.dukeupress.edu/demography/article/58/6/2019/265968/The-Pregnancy-Related-Mortality-Impact-of-a-Total>

⁶ Cohen, I.G., Daar, J., Adashi, EY. What Overturning Roe v Wade May Mean for Assisted Reproductive Technologies in the US. *JAMA*. 5 July 2022:328;1