

RESOLUTION

Subject: Protection of Abortion Training Opportunities in OB/GYN Resident Education

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Referred to: Reference Committee

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WHEREAS, as of June 2022, nearly half of U.S. OB/GYN residency programs and more than 40% of OB/GYN residents are in states that have banned or are likely to ban abortion³; and

WHEREAS, lack of residency training in abortion care threatens to create a workforce without critical early pregnancy management knowledge and skills²; and

WHEREAS, residents are more likely to provide abortion care, whether elective or medically indicated, when they have scheduled routine training built into their curriculum²; and

WHEREAS, more than 90% of residency program directors report that training improved resident competence in abortion and contraception care⁵; and

WHEREAS, in a study, 16% of OB/GYN residents reported that elective abortion training was not available in their curriculum⁷; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong independent relationship between routine, integrated training and greater clinical experience for residents⁷; and

WHEREAS, 24% of US women will have an abortion by age 45⁶; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, there were 1,587 facilities providing abortion in the United States and only 3 facilities in KY, representing a large gap in providers in Kentucky⁶; and

WHEREAS, in Kentucky, 47% of all pregnancies are described as unplanned by pregnant people themselves, and approximately 270,000 women/people with uteruses live in a contraceptive desert⁸; and

WHEREAS, there are no current family planning fellowship training programs in Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, residents will compromise the future of OB/GYN healthcare and failure to incorporate abortion training in resident curriculum will lead to a generation of physicians ill equipped to fulfill their duty to care for patients; and

WHEREAS, research demonstrates how abortion-restrictions hamper physicians' skills needed to care for patients, particularly in emergent situations, putting patients at higher risk for complications⁴; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recognizes the

increase difficulty in abortion provision and training, including restrictions on public funding of abortion education and training¹; and

WHEREAS, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology supports the education and clinical training in abortion¹; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association advocates for “availability of abortion education and clinical exposure to medication and procedural abortion” as well as “supports funding for institutions that provide clinical training on reproductive health services”⁹; and

WHEREAS, the American Medical Association will “support pathways for medical students, residents and fellow physicians to receive medication and procedural abortion training at another location in the event that this training is limited or illegal in a home institution”⁹; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports the protection of OB/GYN residents in Kentucky to have the educational opportunity to learn abortions; and be it further

RESOLVED, that KMA supports limiting restrictions on funding to support abortion education and training in OB/GYN residency curriculum.

References:

- ¹ Abortion Training and Education. *The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists*. <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2014/11/abortion-training-and-education>
- ² Cahill EP, Meza PK. The ongoing crisis of abortion care education and training in the United States. *Curr Opin Obstet Gynecol*. 2022;34(6):373-378. doi:10.1097/GCO.0000000000000825
- ³ Beasley AD, Olatunde A, Cahill EP, Shaw KA. New Gaps and Urgent Needs in Graduate Medical Education and Training in Abortion. *Acad Med*. 2023;98(4):436-439. doi:10.1097/ACM.00000000000005154
- ⁴ Gyuras HJ, Field MP, Thornton O, Bessett D, McGowan ML. The double-edged sword of abortion regulations: Decreasing training opportunities while increasing knowledge requirements. *Med Educ Online*. 2023;28(1):2145104. doi:10.1080/10872981.2022.2145104
- ⁵ Landy U, Turk JK, Simonson K, Koenemann K, Steinauer J. Twenty Years of the Ryan Residency Training Program in Abortion and Family Planning. *Contraception*. 2021;103(5):305-309. doi:10.1016/j.contraception.2020.12.009
- ⁶ Turk J, Preskill F, Landy U, Rocca C, Steinaur J. Availability and characteristics of abortion training in US ob-gyn residency programs: a national survey. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0010782413007452>
- ⁷ United States Abortion Statistics. <https://www.guttmacher.org/united-states/abortion?gad=1&gclid=CjwKCAjwkeqkBhAnEiwA5U-uMzUqzrWXX3TUYJevfDuaNIY201AJ7AqVHs5vnP8tXDXtqtJDk-X8mxoCtcEQAvD BwE>
- ⁸ Williams K. Abortion Access in Eastern Kentucky. <https://powertodecide.org/news/abortion-access-eastern-kentucky>
- ⁹ AMA announces new adopted policies related to reproductive health care. *American Medical Association*. <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/press-releases/ama-announces-new-adopted-policies-related-reproductive-health-care>