

RESOLUTION

Subject: Ensuring Adequate Physician Workforce in Kentucky

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, having an adequate number of physicians is critical for the health and well-being of Kentuckians; and

WHEREAS, laws that limit reproductive autonomy are harmful to the safety of pregnant persons; and

WHEREAS, laws that limit physicians' ability to practice within their scope create untenable ethical dilemmas for obstetricians, making it difficult for them to practice according to their training; and

WHEREAS, for these reasons and others, the laws restricting reproductive autonomy passed by the Kentucky state legislature are negatively impacting the state's ability to attract and retain medical students and residents as evidenced by a recent American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC) study¹ that found a 4.2% decrease between 2023 and 2024 in the number of applicants to residency programs in states with almost complete abortion bans compared to a 0.6% decrease in states where pregnancy termination remains legal; and

WHEREAS, this same study found steady increases in the number of applicants between 2019-2022, followed by a 15% drop in applicants to Kentucky residency programs from 2023-2024 (Dobbs decision² occurred in June 2022, allowing Kentucky's trigger ban to go into effect); and

WHEREAS, a University of Louisville (UofL) study of University of Kentucky and UofL medical students {private communication} found that overall only 53% were planning to stay in Kentucky for residency, 22% were planning to leave the state, and 25% were undecided; and

WHEREAS, the lack of medical students choosing to stay in or come to Kentucky will certainly have a long-term impact on quality of and access to care in the Commonwealth; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA advocate for comprehensive reproductive autonomy for persons capable of conceiving and allowing medical decisions to be made between the patient and their provider.

References

1. <https://www.aamcresearchinstitute.org/our-work/data-snapshot/post-dobbs-2024>
2. https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/19-1392_6j37.pdf