

February 4, 2019

Dear Senators:

We, the undersigned medical and public health organizations, stand in strong opposition to S. 311. This bill represents a dangerous government intrusion into private health care decisions.

S. 311 is a departure from current law. It injects politicians into the patient-provider relationship, disregarding providers' training and clinical judgment and undermining their ability to determine the best course of action with their patients. Patients need and deserve access to compassionate and appropriate medical care. Every woman needs to be able to make the decision that is best for her and her family. But S. 311 would impose criminal and civil penalties on providers to discourage them from providing care, limiting access for their patients.

Instead of enacting policies to advance the health of women and families, the Senate will vote on yet another restriction on women's access to reproductive health care. Abortion is a safe and legal medical procedure in the United States. Abortion providers comply with existing laws and provide excellent care. Women seeking abortion care deserve the highest quality medical treatment based on their individual health circumstances. S. 311 would undermine these principles by attempting to put abortion care out of reach.

We urge lawmakers to protect the autonomy and dignity of patients, stand against the insertion of politics into personal health decisions, and vote against S. 311.

Sincerely,

American College of Nurse-Midwives
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Medical Women's Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Physician Assistants in Obstetrics & Gynecology
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Medical Students for Choice
National Abortion Federation
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of Family Planning