

AMWA Stands with Physicians Performing Abortion Services in the Wake of *Roe* Being Overturned

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Since the United States Supreme Court overruled *Roe v. Wade*, physicians and their patients have faced growing uncertainty regarding how rapidly evolving state laws affect care of people in need of abortion services. AMWA is gravely concerned about the legal and administrative vulnerability physicians face amid the ever-changing patchwork of abortion laws and limitations particularly when such laws are intentionally confusing and designed to criminalize care and punish physicians whose goal is to provide appropriate patient care.

Trigger laws and uncovered past legislation have been instituted in some states, and the confluence of states' legislations regarding abortion is often unclear. Medical malpractice insurers and the risk management systems for employed physicians are not equipped to easily determine the current status of abortion rules, nor to counsel physicians, though many have issued statements clarifying that criminal charges will not be covered.

In states with new or updated abortion restrictions, physicians have been placed in a metaphorical chokehold, unable to legally care for patients who so clearly need medical intervention. Even in states where abortion is not fully restricted, Attorneys General have threatened to file charges against physicians who perform abortion services.

Blurred legal lines and evolving bureaucratic standards are not the only challenges physicians are facing. Legal action taken against a physician, whether deserved or not, has already led to individuals spreading defamatory information about the physicians affected. This can forever alter the course of the physician's career. Further, it is now necessary to create protection funds for physicians still willing to provide care where it is still legally permissible to do so. Threats to physicians, whether legal, physical, or reputational, have been reinvigorated in light of the *Dobbs* decision. Physicians are facing threats to themselves and their families' safety whereas they should be able to practice medicine that is in the best interest of their patients, and others who have been murdered for their role in providing abortion services. No physician should fear for their life or the safety of their family for providing compassionate, evidence-based care.

AMWA has always upheld the right to reproductive healthcare services on behalf of both patients and physicians. Current events have put that right in very real peril, endangering patients and physicians, legally, physically, emotionally and otherwise. AMWA fully supports physicians

who are putting forth their best effort to provide abortion care that complies with current, albeit sometimes convoluted and harmful legal standards, some of which seek to punish them for doing their duty as physicians.

To read the official decision for *Dobbs v. Virginia Women's Health*, click [here](#).

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