



American Medical Women's Association

The Vision and Voice of Women in Medicine since 1915

January 13, 2023

Memorandum of Support for

Senate Bill S1066

2023-2024 Legislative Session

Relates to providing protections to health service providers who perform legally protected health activities

Since the fall of Roe, millions of people across this country now live in states with no local access to abortion care. Many are unable to travel or to get pills or procedures in a timely fashion, putting them at risk of complications of pregnancy. We write to let you know we strongly support S 1066 so that New York can be part of the solution for the people of these abortion-banned states.

Abortion pills are safe and effective when used in the first 12 weeks of pregnancy. The U.S. Food and Drug Association (FDA) has affirmed the safety of telemedicine abortion, approved the provision of telemedicine abortion without an in-office visit and approved delivery of pills through the mail if sent from a medical office or a certified pharmacy. Medication abortion via telemedicine is also recommended as first line care by the World Health Organization.

We are deeply concerned about the implications that abortion bans and restrictions have for basic public health, medical care, and fundamental human rights. That is why we write to commend you for sponsoring this critical legislation and urge your colleagues to join you in passing it swiftly in January of 2023.

Increasing access to abortion pills provides a major step toward ensuring people can protect their health and exercise their rights. Your bill would shield clinicians and pharmacists throughout New York state from prosecution; from loss of license or malpractice; and from subpoenas of their medical records for prescribing and sending of abortion pills to people who need them irrespective of where they live. Protecting clinicians providing such care will benefit countless people throughout the country. Massachusetts has already passed such a shield law and other states are now considering following suit.

Since 1970, New York State has been a national leader in reproductive health care, defending bodily autonomy, and recently expanding abortion access with the 2019 Reproductive Health Act. We strongly support S1066 and Senator Mayer in effort to continue that tradition of leadership.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber'.

Theresa Rohr-Kirchgraber, MD, FACP, FAMWA
AMWA President 2022-2023