

June 14, 2021

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judy Chu
United States House of Representatives
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Blumenthal and Representative Chu:

On behalf of the undersigned medical organizations, representing physicians dedicated to advancing the health of our patients, thank you for introducing the *Women's Health Protection Act* (S. 1975/H.R. 3755). The purpose of your legislation—to protect the patient-physician relationship and preserve the ability of physicians to provide evidence-based care to their patients—is critically important.

Federal, state, and local lawmakers have long played an important role in our health care system. The myriad policies aimed at addressing the ongoing COVID-19 public health emergency provide a prime example of legislators acting to improve the health of their constituents. However, physician leaders have long raised concerns, including in a *New England Journal of Medicine* commentary nearly a decade ago, about the alarming increase in legislators “overstepping the proper limits of their role in the health care of Americans to dictate the nature and content of patients’ interactions with their physicians.”¹ This overreach has taken many forms, including creating unnecessary obstacles for patients trying to access medically appropriate care, forcing physicians to practice outside the bounds of evidence-based medicine, and criminalizing physicians for providing compassionate and evidence-based care. The communities most impacted by these barriers are those already experiencing grave inequities in the health care system. The *Women's Health Protection Act* would address an area of medicine systematically targeted with government overregulation—reproductive health care—by prohibiting these inappropriate restrictions and restoring the ability of patients to receive comprehensive care free from legislative intrusion.

Thank you again for sponsoring this important legislation to prevent legislative interference in the practice of medicine and protect the patient-physician relationship.

Sincerely,

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Physicians
American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society (AGOS)
American Medical Women's Association (AMWA)
American Psychiatric Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology (CUCOG)

Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology (IDSOG)
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Society of Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology
Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine
Society of Family Planning
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of OB/GYN Hospitalists
Society of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Western Association of Gynecologic Oncologists (WAGO)
Womxn's Health Collaborative

ⁱ Weinberger SE, Lawrence HC 3rd, Henley DE, Alden ER, Hoyt DB. Legislative interference with the patient-physician relationship. *N Engl J Med*. 2012 Oct 18;367(16):1557-9. doi: 10.1056/NEJMs1209858. PMID: 23075183.