



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

April 25, 2023

**Statement of Support regarding SJR 33
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG)**

My name is Dr. Carrie Miles and I am a physician licensed in Obstetrics and Gynecology. On behalf of myself, my patients and the 712 practicing ob-gyns of the Oregon Section of ACOG, we would like to express our support of SJR 33. This measure would give voters the opportunity to amend the Oregon constitution to prohibit discrimination on the basis of pregnancy or pregnancy outcomes, gender identity and associated health care, or sexual orientation.

We support this measure because we recognize that abortion is an essential component of comprehensive medical care. Access to the full spectrum of maternal, sexual and reproductive health options, including abortion, is critical to ensure the health, safety and well-being of our patients. Obstetrician-gynecologists must be able to offer care without medically unnecessary barriers or restrictions, and we oppose any legislative or judicial interference into a patient's right to decide what treatment best aligns with their personal needs or beliefs. Since the US Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs vs Jackson Women's Health Organization*, access to abortion care in our country is in peril. Many states have imposed near total bans on abortion, or at the least, severe limitations, creating an environment of fear that individuals will be scrutinized or persecuted for pregnancy outcomes or decisions. SJR 33 would protect patients in the state of Oregon from such scrutiny.

Additionally, we recognize that discrimination or scrutiny with regard to reproductive health decisions would further exacerbate existing health disparities in our state. Systemic inequities in health care mean that communities of color and people with low incomes struggle to access comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion. Being unable to obtain a wanted abortion has been shown to worsen poverty and exacerbate health problems; these outcomes are only magnified in already marginalized communities.

We know that abortion is safe, and it will remain an essential part of comprehensive reproductive healthcare. This measure would allow Oregonians to protect the fundamental right for each person to make their own health care choices and we stand in support of that endeavor.