

January X, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressional Leadership,

We, the undersigned organizations committed to reproductive health, rights, and justice, write in strong opposition to H.R. 21/S. 6, the so-called *Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act*. H.R. 21/S. 6 drives a false narrative about abortion later in pregnancy and attempts to interfere with evidence-based patient care and medical practice.

H.R. 21/S. 6 capitalizes on false and inflammatory rhetoric surrounding abortion. This bill is not rooted in medical care or science, but is a part of an intentional disinformation campaign. Bills like this perpetuate myths and lies about abortion care, the patients who receive this care, and the doctors who provide it. This bill reveals the consistent strategy of anti-abortion politicians whose ultimate goal is to push access to abortion care completely out of reach. Patients and their families in these situations deserve our compassion and support - not our judgment, and certainly not politicians telling them what to do.

Efforts like H.R. 21/S. 6 attempt to dictate a provider's actions---contrary to a physician's medical training and clinical judgment, or a patient's wishes. H.R. 21/S. 6 places rigid and harmful requirements on providers and threatens them with criminal and civil penalties in an attempt to mislead and deceive the public, to interfere with medical care, and to intimidate doctors out of practice. Bills like H.R. 21/S. 6 do not solve a problem, but they do interfere with a physician's medical care in rare and tragic situations where an infant cannot survive. This is why medical organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, oppose this legislation, calling the 2023 version of the bill which passed in the House, "another cruel and misguided attempt to interfere with evidence-based medical decision making between patients and their physicians."<sup>1</sup>

This bill is about driving abortion care further out of reach across the country. As of January 2025, 19 states ban abortion at 18 weeks or earlier, with 12 states enforcing total abortion bans, including restrictions on lifesaving care for people with pregnancy complications. 25 million women of reproductive age, plus transgender and nonbinary people, live in states with abortion bans. Due to overlapping factors of discrimination, racism, and economic inequality in our health care system, Black women, trans and nonbinary people face the hardest barriers to accessing the care they need and deserve. H.R. 21/S. 6 is part of an onslaught of attacks on access to reproductive health care, actions that are opposed by most voters in the United States. The majority of Americans believe that abortion care should be legal. They believe that individuals, not politicians, should make the decisions about if, when, how, and with whom they become

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<sup>1</sup> "ACOG President Condemns the Passage of 'Born-Alive' Legislation." January 11, 2023. ACOG.

parents; bills that attempt to restrict access to reproductive health care, including care for individuals with complicated pregnancies, are part of an extreme agenda that is out of step with what the people living in this country want.

Health, not politics, should inform important medical decisions. Abortion is a deeply personal decision and should always be made by the person seeking an abortion in consultation with their health care provider, family, and other individuals they trust, not politicians. It is fundamentally wrong for politicians to interfere in people's lives for ideological reasons. Politicians are not medical experts and have no place in the exam room interfering with the provision of compassionate, evidence-based care.

We call on Congress to work toward advancing policies that actually help patients and their families rather than restricting access to the reproductive health care they need and deserve. Individuals — not politicians—are best qualified to make decisions about their own health.

Sincerely,