

May 17, 2021

President Pro Tempore, Senator Phil Berger  
Democratic Leader, Senator Dan Blue  
Speaker, Tim Moore  
Democratic Leader, Robert T. Reives, II  
North Carolina General Assembly  
Legislative Building  
16 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, N.C. 27601

Dear Senator Berger, Senator Blue, Representative Moore and Representative Reives, II:

As North Carolina health care professionals, we strongly oppose H.B. 510/S.B. 405, a bill that interferes with our ability to provide evidence-based patient care and improperly inserts politics into the patient-provider relationship. We see this legislation as another attempt, despite what the bills' sponsors say, to further erode access to abortion care in North Carolina, and undermine the ability of patients to determine the course of action that is best for themselves and their families. That is why medical organizations such as Physicians for Reproductive Health, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and North Carolina health professionals oppose bills like H.B. 510/S.B. 405.

As health care professionals, we are bound by standards of care, medical ethics, and the law. This bill, intentionally or not, makes insulting assumptions about the professionalism of providers and disregards the extensive training we have undergone to provide the highest standards of medical care. There are already many protections in place that dictate health care professionals must provide the best care we can for all of our patients, and there are already penalties for those who ignore these standards. We view this bill as a solution in search of a problem.

This bill is an attempt to spread misinformation, shame patients who need abortion care later in pregnancy, and attack health care providers committed to providing their patients with quality, evidence-based health care when they are facing complex medical situations. This bill dictates that providers must take actions that are contrary to our medical training and clinical judgment or to a patient's and their families' wishes. We see the bill's true goals for what they are: mislead the public with extreme accusations, interfere in the patient-provider relationship, and intimidate North Carolina health care professionals out of practice.

As health care professionals we oppose the inflammatory and false information this bill perpetuates to attack abortion later in pregnancy. This language, distorting the care we provide, is an attempt to shut down any conversation about why patients and their families may need to have an abortion. Shaming people for the tough personal decisions they make is cruel, and part of the overall strategy to ban and re-criminalize abortion care.

We chose to care for our patients and communities, and to support individuals and their families regardless of the challenges they face. As health care professionals, our patients trust us with

intimate stories about their lives. This is a privilege we take seriously. And sometimes we are supporting them through their most challenging and emotionally difficult situations. This is a responsibility we take very seriously. This is why we oppose H.B. 510/S.B. 405, and urge legislators to vote against this unnecessary bill.

Sincerely,

Amy Bryant, MD (Durham, 27514)

Elizabeth Deans, MD, MPH (Durham, 27705)

Rathika Nimalendran, MD (Siler City, 27344)

Lynne Walter, MSW (Raleigh, 27604)

Beverly Gray, MD (Durham, 27710)

Jennifer Mullendore, MD, MSPH (Asheville, 28801)

Lisa Hoskins, LCSW (27607)

Kellner Pruett, MD (27834)

Laura Ucik, MD (Henderson, 27536)

Gretchen Stuart, MD (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Chelsea Daniels, MD (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Dana Neutze, MD, PhD (Chapel Hill, 27599)

Michael Bacs-Atlas, MD (Raleigh, 27610)

Laura Forbes, MD, MPH (Greenville, 27834)

Eden Avery, MSW (Wilmington, 28409)

Andrea K. Knittel, MD, PhD (Chapel Hill, 27599)

Katherine Farris, MD (Winston-Salem, 27108)

Rachel Wright, PhD, MSW (Boone)

Jordan Graham, BSW (Spring Lake, 28390)

Dalia Brahmi, MD, MPH (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Jennifer Tang, MD, MSCR, FACOG (Chapel Hill)

Susan Alberto, MD (Raleigh, 27617)

Daragh Conrad, MS, CGC (Winston-Salem, 27157)

Amanda Rachel Jones, MSW, LCSW (Raleigh)

Robyn Koeppen, MD (Huntersville, 28078)

J. Isaac Newton, MD (Greensboro, 27417)

Jonas Swartz, MD, MPH (27710)

Pranalee Patel, BS (Durham, 27705)

Mishka Peart, MD (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Matthew Zerden, MD, MPH, FACOG (Raleigh, 27614)

Jenna Beckham, MD, MSPH, FACOG (Raleigh 27610)

Andrew John Cracker, MD (Raleigh)

Joanne Fruth, MD (Raleigh, 27605)

Rebecca Kasper, MD (Durham, 22705)

Hope Knochenhauer, MD Candidate (Durham)

Caledonia Buckheit, MD (27710)

Laurian Roediger, MD (Raleigh, 27614)

Kristen N. Carrillo-Kappus, MD, MPH (Durham, 27707)

Katherine Bloedau, RN, BSN (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Gregory Sawin, MD, MPH (Durham, 27705)

Erica Pettigrew, MD, JD, MPH (Hillsborough, 27278)

Tressa Ellett, MSc, MD Candidate (Durham, 27701)

Ashli Gibson, CNM (Wilmington)

Gail Martino, MS, CGC (Wake Forest, 27587)

Mari Bentley, MD, MPH (Raleigh, 27617)

Robin Wallace, MD, MAS (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Calla Hales, Clinical Director (Raleigh, 27617; Charlotte, 28211)

Clayton A. Alfonso, MD (27713)

Sally Howland, BSN, RN (Durham, 27710)

Danielle Ronis, RN (Chapel Hill, 27514)

Leonora Tisdale, RN (Chapel Hill, 27415)

Kimberly Spader, MSW, LCSW (Wilmington, 28403)