



To: Arizona State Legislators
Date: Tuesday, April 16, 2024
RE: Support for HB2677

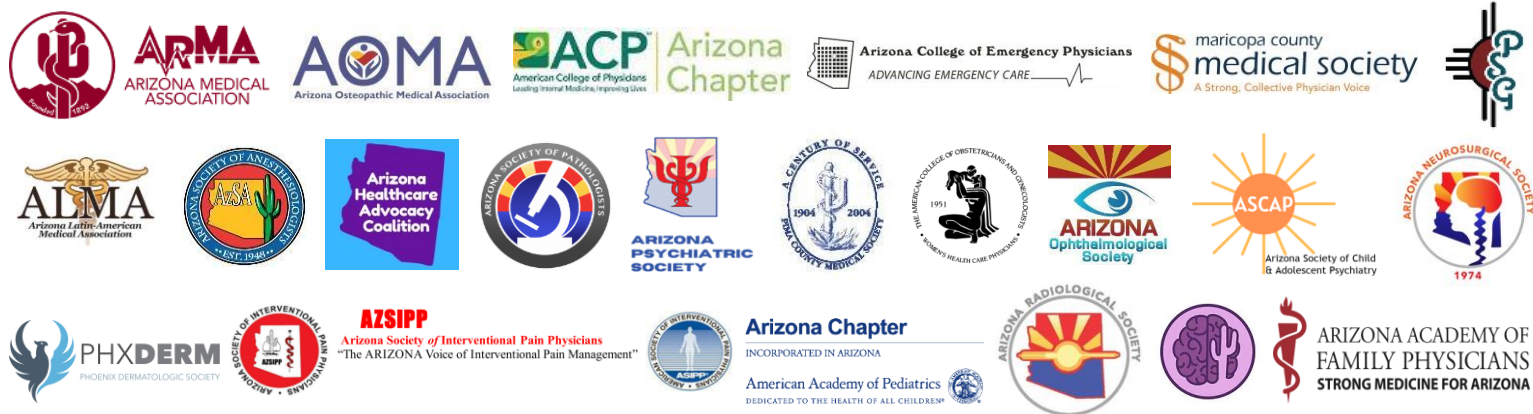
On behalf of the Arizona Medical Association, the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association, the Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition, the American College of Physicians-Arizona, the Arizona Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons, the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Arizona Section, the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians, the Maricopa County Medical Society, the Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists, the Arizona Latin-American Medical Association, the Arizona Psychiatric Society, the Pima County Medical Society, the Phoenix Dermatological Society, the Phoenix Society of Gastroenterology, the Arizona Dermatological & Dermatological Surgical Society, the Arizona Society of Pathologists, the Arizona Child Psychiatric Society, the Arizona Radiological Society, the Arizona Society of Interventional Pain Physicians, the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Arizona Neurological Society, the Arizona Neurosurgical Society, and the Arizona College of Emergency Physicians — who represent Arizona physicians and the patients they serve — **we strongly request you to unite with your fellow legislators and support HB 2677** (abortion ban; repeal).

Last week's Arizona Supreme Court's ruling that revives a near-total ban on pregnancy termination will have severe and harmful implications for patients and physicians in our state. Now, members of the Arizona State Legislature have the **opportunity and responsibility to act as one in the best interests of patients** and physicians, thereby protecting Arizonans from dire consequences.

It's plain and simple: the decision from the Arizona Supreme Court to recognize a law that was established more than 150 years ago makes no sense, especially when the state has existing laws on reproductive health that were passed *this century*.

The reasons for supporting HB2677 and repealing this near-total pregnancy termination ban are many:

- The 1864 law criminalizes physicians for performing evidence-based medical procedures.
- The 1864 law is too vague and puts patients at risk. There are no clear guidelines around how endangered a patient's life must be to legally end a pregnancy.
- The 1864 law is archaic. Arizona's laws should reflect medical advancements from the past century and current clinical best practices. For perspective, the 1864 statute was adopted before antiseptics were invented, before x-rays were discovered, and before women had the right to vote.
- The 1864 law is discriminatory towards underserved and underrepresented communities. People of color, those living in rural areas of the state, and those with limited economic resources will be disproportionately impacted, thereby increasing inequities that already plague the healthcare system.



The health care community stands united as one. We cannot allow this antiquated and severe law to impact the lives of our patients, so we are requesting that our state's representatives — Republican and Democratic legislators — act in accordance with their shared goal: to serve and protect the interests of Arizonans.

As organizations dedicated to supporting the health of our community, **we are calling on every legislator to join us in condemning governmental interference in the physician-patient relationship and rejecting laws that criminalize clinicians for performing evidence-based medical procedures.**

For all these reasons and more, we respectfully request you support the passage of HB 2677.

Thank you for standing with those most severely impacted by this illogical ban.

Sincerely,

William C. Thompson, IV, MD, FASA
President, Arizona Medical Association

James Keane, DO
President, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Marc Lieb, MD
Chairman, Arizona Healthcare Advocacy Coalition

Henry Mark Kwong, MD
President, Arizona Society of Eye Physicians & Surgeons

Laura Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FACOG
Chair, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, Arizona Section

Jane Lyons, MD
President, Maricopa County Medical Society

Gary Tzeng, MD
President, Arizona Society of Anesthesiologists

Gagandeep Singh, MD
President, Arizona Psychiatric Society

Farshad Shirazi, MD
President, Pima County Medical Society

K. Lyn Hamacher, MD
President, The Phoenix Dermatological Society

Christopher Weyer, DO
President, AZ Dermatological & Dermatological Surgical Society

Allan L. Markus, MD, MS, MBA, FACP
Governor, American College of Physicians-Arizona

Laura Dearing
Executive VP, Arizona Academy of Family Physicians

Pedro R. Rodriguez Guggiari, MD, FACP
Chair, Arizona Latin-American Medical Association

Lucinda A. Harris, MD
President, Phoenix Society of Gastroenterology

Brian McNally, MD
President, Arizona Society of Pathologists



Olga Gokova, MD, FACEP
President, Arizona College of Emergency Physicians

Suzane Don, MD
President, Arizona Child Psychiatric Society

Christina Ferraro, MD
President, Arizona Radiological Society

Matthew Crooks, MD
President Arizona Society of Interventional Pain Physicians

Kristina Wilson, MD, MPH, FAAP
President, Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Kerry Knievel, DO
President, Arizona Neurological Society

Matin E. Weinand, MD
President, Arizona Neurosurgical Society