

**Minnesota Section**

March 6, 2018

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Reform Committee,

As the leadership of the Minnesota Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), we strongly oppose HF 3194. We are alarmed at this attempt to interfere in the doctor-patient relationship by telling physicians how to deliver compassionate and evidence based care to the women in the state of Minnesota.

HF 3194 would compromise the integrity of the patient-physician relationship, taking patientphysician communication and putting it into the hands of politicians. It is extremely dangerous for lawmakers to presume they are better equipped than medically trained physicians to judge what approach is appropriate for a patient. HF 3194 does not meaningfully contribute to the quality of care delivery. The results of any and all testing (including ultrasounds) is already communicated to the patient in the most timely and appropriate manner.

ACOG’s Executive Board Statement of Policy on Legislative Interference asserts that: “The College and ACOG strongly oppose any governmental interference that threatens communications between patients and their physicians or causes a physician to compromise his or her medical judgment about what information or treatment is in the best interest of the patient.”

The rhetoric surrounding this bill is inflammatory and non-medical, and it is clearly designed to manipulate the therapeutic patient-physician relationship. The practice of medicine is based upon research and carefully developed standards of care. When politicians proscribe certain processes and behavior for non-medical reasons, the doctor-patient relationship is irreparably compromised.

HF 3194 is unnecessary political intrusion into the practice of medicine in Minnesota.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Elfstrand MD - Chair Maren Flynn MD

Siri Fiebiger MD, MPH - Legislative Chair Amy Markese MD

Christy Boraas MD, MPH Lisa Mattson MD

Jenifer Byrnes DO Erin Stevens MD

Lisa Erickson MD Jan Strathy MD

Kathy Flory MD Bridget Keller MD

Todd Stanhope MD Carrie Terrell MD

Kristin Lyerly MD

Cresta Jones MD

Elizabeth Slagle MD