



ROSS F. GOLDBERG, MD
PRESIDENT

LIBBY MCDANNELL, CAE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

April 20, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Arizona State Legislature
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Opposition to SB 1457 (abortion; unborn child; genetic abnormality)

Legislators:

We are writing on behalf of the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA), the Arizona Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AzACOG), the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (AzAFP), the Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP), the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) and the thousands of Arizona physicians that these organizations collectively represent. We urge you to oppose SB1457, which criminalizes the termination of pregnancy based upon a genetic abnormality. The conference committee amendments do not alleviate the significant harm that the bill poses to the physician-patient relationship and medical care in Arizona.

Our organizations stand in strong opposition to any legislation that criminalizes the practice of medicine, which SB 1457 undoubtedly does. If enacted, SB 1457 would subject physicians providing legitimate medical care to their patients to felony charges. It will likely result in patients seeking abortion care from unlicensed providers, thereby risking their health and safety. Government should not be in the business of defining appropriate medical care and should not be regulating the practice of medicine through criminal sanctions.

In addition, SB 1457 severely compromises the physician-patient relationship which is the basis for high quality medical care. The bill will discourage communication between physicians and patients by creating a fear of criminal prosecution. The physician-patient relationship is founded on trusted, open and honest communication, which best serves the health and safety of the patient and ensures that the physician is able to make the most informed medical judgment. SB 1457 undermines the foundation of the physician-patient relationship by threatening criminal consequences. This is bad public policy that does not serve the best interest of Arizonans.

info@AZmed.org
AZmed.org

 @AZmedicine

 @ArizonaMedicine

 @ArizonaMedicine

2401 W. PEORIA AVE. SUITE 130 PHOENIX, AZ 85029

602.347.6900



ARMA
ARIZONA MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION

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The coalition of physician groups comprised of ArMA, AzAFP, AzAAP, AOMA and AzACOG urge you to reject SB 1457 as an unacceptable, unwise and dangerous intrusion into the physician-patient relationship. Please vote NO on SB 1457.

Sincerely,

Miriam Anand, MD
President, Arizona Medical Association

Laura Mercer, MD, FACOG
Chair, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Arizona Section

William Thrift, MD
President, Arizona Academy of Family Physicians

Mary Rimzsa, MD
The American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter

Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO
President, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association



ARMA
ARIZONA MEDICAL
ASSOCIATION



ARIZONA ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR ARIZONA



info@AZmed.org
AZmed.org

@AZmedicine
 @ArizonaMedicine
 @ArizonaMedicine

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