

**OREGON ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS
CONGRESS OF THE MEMBERS
72nd ANNUAL MEETING
May 4, 2019**

Resolution #2

Introduced by: Alex Kipp, Carrie Pierce, and Nellie Wirsing

Subject: Decriminalization of Abortion Provision

- 1 WHEREAS the AAFP supports efforts to protect physician autonomy and the patient
2 physician relationship without unnecessary interference by legislative authorities¹, and
- 3 WHEREAS one in four women in the United States will have an abortion by the age of
4 45², and
- 5 WHEREAS several studies internationally show that access to safe abortion
6 significantly decreases maternal morbidity and mortality³, and
- 7 WHEREAS the AAFP has resolved that it supports a woman's access to reproductive
8 health services and opposes non-evidence-based restrictions on medical care and the
9 provision of such services⁴, and
- 10 WHEREAS first trimester abortions have a very low rate of complications requiring
11 hospitalization, approximately 0.5% or less⁵, making them one of the safest office
12 procedures physicians perform, and
- 13 WHEREAS targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) bills severely limit abortion
14 providers, with provisions including but not limited to: requiring facilities providing

¹ American Academy of Family Physicians. Infringement on Patient Physician Relationship.
<https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/infringement-relationship.html>

² Jones RK, Jerman J. Population Group Abortion Rates and Lifetime Incidence of Abortion:
United States, 2008-2014. Am J Public Health. 2017;107(12):1904-1909.

³ Haddad LB, Nour NM. Unsafe abortion: unnecessary maternal mortality. Rev Obstet Gynecol.
2009;2(2):122-6.

⁴ American Academy of Family Physicians. Congress of Delegates. Resolution No. 504: Support
the Women's Health Protection Act. <https://www.aafp.org/about/governance/congress-delegates/previous/2014/resolutions/newyork-c.mem.html>

⁵ White K, Carroll E, Grossman D. Complications from first-trimester aspiration abortion: a
systematic review of the literature. Contraception. 2015;92(5):422-38.

15 abortion care meet the same standards as ambulatory surgical centers⁶, and prohibiting
16 physicians from providing abortions if they do not have direct admitting privileges to or
17 affiliation with a hospital⁷, and

18 WHEREAS studies have shown that there is no difference in the complication rates
19 between procedures performed in outpatient clinics versus in ambulatory surgical
20 centers⁸, indicating these limitations are medically unnecessary, and

21 WHEREAS physicians should act in the best interest of the patient using evidence-
22 based practices, and this ethical practice should not be criminalized⁹; therefore

23 RESOLVED that the AAFP oppose legislation that targets family doctors who provide
24 abortion services, and

25 RESOLVED that the AAFP issue a position paper against the practice of criminalizing
26 physicians for providing abortion care.

⁶Guttmacher Institute. Targeted Regulation of Abortion. January 2019. *Guttmacher Institute* (<https://www.guttmacher.org>; <https://www.guttmacher.org/state-policy/explore/targeted-regulation-abortion-providers>)

⁷ see endnote 5.

⁸ Roberts SCM, Upadhyay UD, Liu G, et al. Association of Facility Type With Procedural-Related Morbidities and Adverse Events Among Patients Undergoing Induced Abortions. *JAMA*. 2018;319(24):2497-2506.

⁹ American Academy of Family Physicians. Criminalization of the Medical Practice. <https://www.aafp.org/about/policies/all/criminalization.html>