Resolution #2

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

Subject: Decriminalization of Abortion Provision

WHEREAS the AAFP supports efforts to protect physician autonomy and the patient physician relationship without unnecessary interference by legislative authorities¹, and

WHEREAS one in four women in the United States will have an abortion by the age of 45², and

WHEREAS several studies internationally show that access to safe abortion significantly decreases maternal morbidity and mortality³, and

WHEREAS the AAFP has resolved that it supports a woman's access to reproductive health services and opposes non-evidence-based restrictions on medical care and the provision of such services⁴, and

WHEREAS first trimester abortions have a very low rate of complications requiring hospitalization, approximately 0.5% or less⁵, making them one of the safest office procedures physicians perform, and

WHEREAS targeted regulation of abortion providers (TRAP) bills severely limit abortion providers, with provisions including but not limited to: requiring facilities providing


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

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

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

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

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

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⁷see endnote 5.
