



IDAHO ACADEMY OF  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS  
STRONG MEDICINE FOR IDAHO

## Idaho Academy of Family Physicians Statement on Protecting the Physician-Patient Relationship

The Idaho Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) joins our national organization, the American Academy of Family Physicians, in our opposition to any laws and regulations that interrupt or interfere in the confidential relationship between a patient and their physician.

### We support policies and practices that:

- Protect patients and clinicians who provide medically necessary care
- Prevent private citizens from interfering in our patient's healthcare decisions
- Provide continued access to evidence-based comprehensive care and information
- Protect the integrity of the physician-patient relationship and prevent government overreach and interference into this relationship.

Our patients must be able to rely on their physicians to assist them in making critical decisions about their personal health and the IAFP will oppose any policies that threaten our patient's ability to make informed decisions that impact their health and well-being.

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### The following resources may be referred to for more information from the American Academy of Family Physicians Regarding Access to Reproductive Health and Protecting the Physician-Patient Relationship.

#### Advocacy Communications

- September 2021 Group of Six [statement](#) opposing Texas SB 8, which effectively banned abortion and related medical support as early as six weeks into pregnancy and allows private citizens to sue physicians, clergy, family, or any person who helps a woman obtain an abortion, with no exception for rape or incest, for up to \$10,000
- In September 2021, AAFP joined an [amicus brief](#) in opposition to Mississippi's law that would prohibit abortion after 15 weeks

#### AAFP Policies

- [Reproductive Decisions](#): The AAFP encourages all family physicians to provide patient education on contraceptive options at every available opportunity to avoid unintended pregnancies. In the event of an unintended pregnancy, family physicians should educate patients about all option
- [Infringement on Physician-Patient Relationship](#): The AAFP opposes legislation that infringes on the content or breadth of information exchanged within the patient physician relationship because of the potential harm it can cause to the health of the individual, family, and community.
- [Criminalization of the Medical Practice](#): The American Academy of Family Physicians take all reasonable and necessary steps to ensure that medical decision-making and treatment, exercised in good faith, does not become a violation of criminal law.
- [Reproductive and Maternity Health Services](#): The AAFP supports a woman's access to reproductive and maternity health services and opposes nonevidence-based restrictions on medical care and the provision of such services.
- [Training in Reproductive Decisions](#): The AAFP supports the concept that no physician or other health professional shall be required to perform any act which violates personally held moral principles.