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IDAHO ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR IDAHO

IAFP Statement in Response to the Supreme Court Decision on Roe v. Wade

The U.S. Supreme Court recently announced a decision that overturns nearly five decades of abortion rights protections. In the face of this change, the Idaho Academy of Family Physicians (IAFP) is committed to supporting patient care, health care access, and the integrity of the patient-physician relationship.

IAFP is deeply concerned about how the recent decision of the US Supreme Court could limit an individual's ability to make their own reproductive health decisions in consultation with their medical provider. To improve the health of patients, families, and communities, everyone must have access to the full range of health care services.

Physician members of the IAFP approach reproductive health from a variety of perspectives. The IAFP respects the diverse views and values of our members and their patients. After surveying our members, it is the majority opinion that IAFP members support access to abortion care as it has been allowed in Idaho since the passage of Roe v. Wade. The IAFP supports the evidence-based practice of medicine and opposes policies that criminalize the patient-physician relationship and inhibit the delivery of safe and timely comprehensive care.

Health care decisions should be made by patients in consultation with a trusted physician who is able to offer all information necessary to ensure informed consent. The IAFP strongly opposes any external interference in this process as it conflicts with the fundamental medical principle of patient autonomy and infringes upon the patient-physician relationship.

The IAFP supports and advocates for health equity. Restricting access to comprehensive reproductive health services will lead to unsafe abortions and unsafe pregnancies which will disproportionately affect people of color, low-income individuals, rural residents, and other vulnerable populations.

The IAFP is distressed about the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision on Idahoans and has formed a Reproductive Health Committee of IAFP members. The Reproductive Health Committee will serve to review evidence-based practices, educate IAFP members on reproductive health topics, and advocate for reproductive health access in Idaho.

The IAFP Reproductive Health Committee is currently involved in:

- Requesting increased efforts to provide sex education by the state of Idaho.
- Advocating for enhanced access to contraceptives for Idahoans to prevent unplanned pregnancies.
- Developing and distributing educational resources for our members and their patients experiencing unplanned pregnancies.
- Supporting access to the full range of reproductive health services for all patients of reproductive age, including abortion.

The IAFP also advocates for healthcare for pregnant patients, young children, more resources, and support for working parents such as preschool education and daycare options and good adoption services and foster care programs.