



Policies on Abortion Services

The AAFP has several policies on this issue, all of which have been linked below.

[Reproductive and Maternity Health Services](#)

[Reproductive Decisions](#)

[Health Care Is a Right](#)

[Confidentiality, Patient/Physician](#)

[Infringement on Patient-Physician Relationship](#)

[Reproductive Decisions, Coverage](#)

[Reproductive Decisions, Promoting Access to Medication and First-Trimester Aspiration Terminations by Supporting Skilled Providers](#)

[Reproductive Decisions, Training](#)

[Criminalization of the Medical Practice](#)

[Criminalization of the Provision of Medical Care to Undocumented Individuals](#)

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Frequently Asked Questions About AAFP Policy on Abortion

Why is the Academy advocating for abortion access when I don't agree with it?

The AAFP supports access to timely, evidenced-based medical care within the confines of a physician-patient relationship. This is at the core of our mission. The Academy opposes any efforts by governments to interfere with the confidential relationship between the patient and the physician, including efforts to criminalize evidence-based medical care. Furthermore, the Academy advocates for everyone's right to health care and firmly believes that patients must be free to make their own medical decisions.

What if I don't support abortion rights due to religious or personal views? What does this mean for me?

The AAFP fully respects and supports our members who hold religious beliefs that guide them in their practice of medicine. We strongly support the many protections in place to ensure that our members will never have to deliver care that conflicts with their religious or moral beliefs, as



long as adequate notice is given to enable the patient to engage the services of another physician. Among them are:

- The Church Amendments. These were enacted to protect the conscience rights of individuals who object to performing or assisting in the performance of abortions or sterilization procedures if such action conflicts with religious beliefs or moral convictions.
- The Public Health Service Act. Provisions in this law prohibit the federal government and any state or local government receiving federal funding from discriminating against any health care entity that refuses to undergo training in the performance of abortions, refuses to require or provide such training, refuses to perform such abortions, or refuses to provide referrals for such training or such abortions
- The Affordable Care Act. This law provides that no “qualified health plan” on the Exchange discriminate against facilities or clinicians because of their unwillingness to provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or otherwise refer for abortion

How does the AAFP craft policy on these sensitive topics?

The AAFP’s policy development process is dictated by the Congress of Delegates through resolutions that are offered for consideration as set forth in the Standing Rules of the Congress of Delegates. This process is also informed by the work of the AAFP’s commissions.

I do not agree with the position that the AAFP takes on abortion and other issues. Why should I continue to be a member?

The diversity of our membership is one of our greatest strengths and representing each member’s ability to care for patients in the way that resonates personally will always be a top priority for our membership — even when we do not all agree. There are, however, many points of alignment on issues such as physician payment and administrative burden. Tackling issues together and engaging in healthy debate ensures the strength of our specialty.