

Good evening, members of the Iowa General Assembly, ladies and gentlemen:

My name is Marygrace Elson. I live in Iowa City. I am the Obstetrics and Gynecology residency program director at University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you regarding the potential impact of amended SF359 on the residency program in Obstetrics and Gynecology at University of Iowa. There is only one ObGyn residency in our state, and we graduate 5 residents per year. Approximately a third of these graduates remain in Iowa to practice.

Not everyone is familiar with the training requirements to practice medicine-- completion of a Bachelor's degree, plus four years of medical school, followed by years of residency in a specialty.

Residencies are accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, or the ACGME.

The program requirements for an Obstetrics and Gynecology program include(IVA 6d) *Programs must provide training or access to training in the provision of abortions, and this must be part of the planned curriculum. (Core)*

and

*Residents must have experience in managing complications of abortions.*

If a program does not meet a requirement, it gets a citation. If the shortcoming is not corrected eventually there is a warning, and then probation, and, ultimately, loss of accreditation.

Any individual resident may opt out of abortion training, However, the program must provide abortion training.

SF 359 would essentially ban all abortion in the state of Iowa, so our ObGyn residency would need to look out of state to identify and contract with an entity where our residents could pursue abortion training, most likely at significant state expense.

Accreditation worries for the ObGyn residency could have a snowball effect. The reputation of the program and the department is hurt, affecting the quality of applicants for residency and faculty positions, and faculty retention.

Four subspecialty fellowships in ObGyn depend on accreditation of the Ob/Gyn residency- as does the Neonatology fellowship in the Children's Hospital- the doctors who take care of preemies.

Iowa medical students choosing ObGyn may preferentially leave the state for residency and practice.



SF359 will potentially diminish the health care available for women, girls, and babies for our entire state.

I have practiced medicine for 30 years. I have been with my patient who has just learned that her much wanted baby has no brain, confronted with a choice between terrible and awful. Regardless of her choice, she deserves safe care at the hands of a well-trained physician.

There is no place for a legislator in the exam room with my patient and me, dictating what I may say to my patient, or telling me that I must do things that are not medically indicated.

SF359 is bad medicine.

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