

My name is Dr. Rebecca Shaw. I have been providing obstetrical and gynecologic care to women in Iowa for over 35 years. My views on reproductive choice and abortion have been shaped by taking care of thousands of women in our state, with many needs and many different situations. I am a member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, a national organization that maintains the highest standards of clinical practice for physicians taking care of our Iowa women. Our members have dedicated their careers and lives to secure healthy futures for our patients and their families by providing high-quality, evidence-based health care. ACOG Iowa supports the availability of safe, high-quality reproductive health services for all women and is committed to protecting safe, legal access to abortion as a necessary component of women's health care.

In my years taking care of women in this state I have seen many patients, such as those with a contraceptive failure, who were desperate for a way to terminate an unintended pregnancy. I have cared for women and their families when a fetal abnormality was discovered, resulting in a very difficult decision to terminate the pregnancy. ACOG has long opposed unnecessary, unjustified government restrictions on abortion, and works to prevent political interference into medical decision making that is inappropriate, ill-advised, and dangerous. 1 The WHO has solid data showing that more women die when abortion care is restricted. Like all patients, women obtaining abortion are entitled to privacy, dignity, respect, and support from their doctor, free from political overreach.

Iowa is the state with the fewest obstetricians per capita, so we already have a major problem with access to obstetrical care. Medical students want to train where the full range of reproductive care is offered and taught. And trained obstetricians/gynecologists want to live and work in a state that supports the full range of reproductive health services. House Joint Resolution 2004 will have a chilling effect on recruiting doctors to train and to practice in our State! This resolution places ill-advised and dangerous restrictions on women's reproductive choices, and I urge you to oppose House Joint Resolution 2004!

