

## To the citizens of Idaho, our elected state and local officials, our business leaders, and our communities of faith,

Since the Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v Wade, the Idaho medical community has been closely monitoring Idaho's abortion-related laws, including the fetal heartbeat ban and the abortion trigger law. Both are scheduled to become Idaho law later this month, and we are gravely concerned.

There are certainly differing opinions within the medical community, including amongst this coalition of health care providers, regarding our personal beliefs on "elective" termination. However, we are all aligned in our calling as health care professionals to provide safe, evidence-based care to the pregnant citizens of Idaho. The Idaho Coalition for Safe Reproductive Health Care (ICSRHC) which includes physicians, nurses, health care administrators, and representatives from multiple subspecialty organizations was formed to share these concerns with Idahoans and work to improve these laws for the safety of our citizens and our health care teams.

Patients may arrive at our doorsteps with significant pre-existing health problems, or they may develop an early complication with their pregnancy. Many of these conditions are extremely common, such as ectopic pregnancy and early incomplete miscarriage. And there are of course lesser-known pregnancy complications which are equally as dangerous, including molar pregnancy, heterotopic pregnancy, twin-reverse anemia polycythemia sequence (TRAP) and high-order multiple gestations. The Total Abortion Ban outlaws the abortion of any type of "clinically diagnosable pregnancies" without any exception for serious, life-threatening pregnancy complications. Uncertainty about the risk of criminal charges for providing evidence-based care during such a complication could result in catastrophic outcomes.

There are also many conditions that can occur concurrent with, or because of the pregnancy, such as pre-viable preeclampsia, cancer, pulmonary hypertension, and heart failure, just to name a few. With no option but to continue the pregnancy, patients with these conditions face an unacceptably high risk of death or permanent disability. Sadly, this could result in the loss of two lives, while also taking a mother from her children, a wife from a spouse, and a daughter from her parents. These cases are gut-wrenching for all involved. As health care providers we guide patients and their families with the best scientific evidence available, we consult with their spiritual leaders, but ultimately the decision of who lives and who dies is the sole decision of the patient; not us, and most certainly not the lawmakers.

These laws also make no exception for lethal or severely life-limiting fetal diagnosis. Imagine you have been trying to get pregnant for years and finally the pregnancy test is positive! At your 20-week ultrasound the news is devastating – anencephaly; the baby has no skull, no brain, no chance of survival. Continuing this pregnancy increases the risk of major maternal complications, while also further delaying the ability to conceive a healthy pregnancy.

Our mothers, our daughters, our relatives, our friends, and our colleagues – all the women in our state – are depending on us, the citizens of Idaho, the lawmakers, and the medical community, to get this right. The Total Abortion Ban and Fetal Heartbeat Abortion Ban, as they are currently written, are dangerously vague and excessively restrictive. This coalition implores you, the citizens of Idaho, to be compassionate and empowered. We are calling on you to contact your legislative representative, make your voice heard, recommend revision of this law to protect the women of our state from reproductive harm.

Sincerely,

The Idaho Coalition for Safe Reproductive Health Care and these 343 members of the Idaho Medical Community:

John M. Werdal MD FACOG (OB/GYN), Lauren Miller, MD (MFM), Loren Colson, DO (Family Medicine), Heather Hammerstedt MD MPH, Rebecca Uranga, MD, Leanne Elisha, DNP, PMHNP (perinatal mental health), Caitlin Gustafson MD (Family Medicine), Vince Huntberger MD, FACEP (Emergency Medicine), Nicole Fox MD, MPA (Psychiatry and Lifestyle Medicine), Sierra Dierberham MD, MSPh (Emergency Medicine), Mo Ferguson MD (Family Medicine with Obstetrics), Missy Perron-Burdick MD, MAS (Obstetrics & Gynecology), Krueger Morton, MD (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Lindsay N. Conner, MD, MPH (OB-GYN), Michael Walton, MD, Katrina J. Litterer, MD (OB/GYN), Brea L. Shrum, MD (Obstetrics/Gynecology), Scott A Snyder MD (Neonatology), Dr. Kathleen C Keating, DO, Nate Robinson, MHA, Phillissa Rozansky NNP (NICU), Anne Feighner, MD, Heather Endriss MSN-BC, NNP, Stephanie Vittoe, RDMS (Maternal-Fetal Medicine), Rebecca Lambert B.S. RDMS, Megan FitzMaurice, NP, Andrea Prasch MD (Pediatrics), Vanja Waters RDMS, Natasha Splaine-Talbot, APRN, PMHNP (Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner), Michaela Schulte, MD FACP (Internal Medicine), Jodie L. Donovan MD, MSc, FACP (Internal Medicine), Laura McGeorge, MD FACP, Kristen Sherner, RDMS (Maternal-Fetal Medicine), Katie Schneider, MD (Family Medicine), Birgit Dau-BC Infectious Diseases, Holly Kawano, MD (OB/GYN), Julie Meltzer, MD (Ob/Gyn Hospitalist), Bethany Coleman, RN BSN (Maternal Fetal Medicine), Sarah Brocke PA-C (Women's Health - Gynecology), Kerri Tucker, WHCNP (Women's Health Care NP), Stacy Cooper PA-C (OB/GYN), Kristen Dalton, MD, Allyson J. Komori, DO (Internal Medicine), Tiffany J. Beath, FNP-C, Jacqueline Maybach, MD, Nathan Meltzer MD, Julie Lyons MD (Family Medicine), JP Prouty MD (Family Medicine), Jennifer Merchant MD (Neonatology), Jessica Hazard, J.D. (Program Manager), Heather Bochenki LPN (Women's Health Clinic), Whitney Delawyer, RMA Jennifer Ritchie, Jennifer Nicole Lilleum, MD - Female Pelvic Medicine & Reconstructive Surgery Linda Vick RN (OB-GYN), Lucinda Leigh Morse MD, Jason Bronner, MD, FACP (Internal Medicine), Michelle Martin-Thompson, MD (Internal Medicine), Alex Tanabe, MD (Internal Medicine), Melissa Merrill CNM, WHNP, Carolyn Bilodeau RMA (OB/GYN), Tracey Busby MD (Family Medicine), Tricia L. Keefe, DO, Shannon Boyer NP-C, Marjorie Geier, RN (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Roger T. Turcotte, MD (Internal Medicine), Dan S. Fairman MD, FACP (Internal Medicine), Michael F. Gilchrist, MD, Leslie J Stubbs, MD, Ashley E Morgan, MD, James P. Souza, MD (Maternal and Critical Care Medicine), Erika Livingstone RN Breast Care Services, Nicole T Singer PA-C, Lisa M. Burgett MD, FACP (Internal Medicine), Joshua A Layher DO, MBA (Internal Medicine), Heather A Layher DO, MBA (Dermatology-Mohs Surgery) Shannon N. Molobayo PA (Internal Medicine), Alaina McCoy, PA-C (OB/GYN), Kelly Pennings, DO (Family Medicine), Stacy T. Seyb, MD, Dove Hall MD, Jennifer K Lewis, MD, Micah Thoreson, FNP (Internal Medicine), Sarah A. Curtin MD, Cynthia Hayes MD (Obstetric Hospitalist), Darin I. Weyhrich MD, OB Hospitalist, Eric Bluem, MD, PhD (Vascular Surgery), Cherie Drake CMA, Hannah Cronbaugh, CNM, MSN (Midwife), Elizabeth A Gibson NNP, Melissa Arnold, MD, Timothy West MD, Martha Wilson, MD (Family Medicine), Jennifer Holliday MD, MPH (Family Medicine), Kristina Brown DO, Davis Katskeanes, MD Lucie DiMaggio MD, FACP (Internal Medicine), Kylie Cooper MD (Maternal-Fetal Medicine), Dean N. Defrees, MD (Family Medicine), Erin Coppin, PA-C (Family Medicine), Susan Hutt RN Women's Health Jennifer Rogan RN, Jenni Bradley, MD, MPH (OB/GYN), Juanita Layne, FNP-C, John A Baker MD, FACP (Int Med), Tiffany Wohlwend PA-C, Emily Corrigan, MD, FACOG (Obstetric Hospitalist), Corey V. Ham, NP-C (Family Medicine), Tamara M. Rolan, CNM, MSN, Autumn Freeland PA-C, Jessica Councell, CNM Catherine Ann Cunagin, MD (Orthopaedic Surgery), Abby Dadds, MD, MPH (Family Medicine) Michelle Doran NP-C, Family Practice, Phyllis Yau, MD, Brenna McCrummen, MD, Amy Drumm, MD (Family Medicine), Elizabeth H. Suggen MD, Family Medicine Physician, Juliana L DiGiosia MD (Ob Gyn) Stacia Munn, MD (Family Medicine), Heather S Bartlett NP, Paige By DO (Family Medicine), Anna M Chase, MD (Family Medicine), Cara Sullivan MD (Family Medicine), Heather Quinn, MD (Family Medicine), Angela Bangs, MD, Ashton Lupton DNP, CNM, ARNP (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Brenda Lee, PA-C, Paul Lee, PA-C, Amanda Aman, MD, Kenneth T. Lindley MD (Orthopedic Surgery) Lange Clancy DO (Family Medicine), Alyson L. Smith, MD, FASAM (Family and Addiction Medicine), Maria K. Palmquist, MD (Maternal Fetal Medicine), Sarah Norton, Allison Bastian, MD (Family Medicine), Molly Janowick, MD, Rachel Chisauvsky DO, Christina Knutsen MD, Timothy Ulrich, MD (Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine), John B Goforth DO, Kade Klippenstein, MD (Family Medicine), Shashi Ajmani MD Melissa Roop, MD (Family Medicine), Brian Matteson, MD, Patricia Coplinger, MD, Dinu Mistry, MD Sarah Stoller, MD, Emily M. Fitzgerald MD (Family Medicine), Ashley Rose, NP, Andrea Christopher, MD, MPH (Internal Medicine), Daniel Squire PA-C (Family Medicine), Madeline Lima PA-C, Amelia Schurke, MD, Family Medicine, Vic Kodyan, MD (Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation), Danielle Davies, MD (Family Medicine), Kelsey Wertzler, MD (Family Medicine), Carissa Pereda MD, Crystal L. Pyrak MD Family Medicine, Kenneth Helal MD, Kerri Crowe, MPT, Rehab Medicine, Sarah Waterman, MD FMOB, Sara Thomson, MD (OB/GYN), Robert Crouch, DO (Family Medicine/Obstetrics), Philippe A. Masser, MD (Vascular Surgery), Margaret Mortimer, FNP, Joe Jones, MD (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Andrew Henneberg, MD, Jessica L. Sallstrom, DO (Family Medicine), Janae V. Krahn MD (Family Medicine) Kelly Heusinkveld, PA, Clarence W Bilea MD, Jaclyn M. Cooperchild, MD (Family Medicine, Sports Medicine), Alex Penrod, RN, MHA, Marvin Alviso, MD (Family Medicine), Jessica Duvall, MD (Pediatrianist), Derek Hayton DO (Family Medicine), Ali Klippenstein, NP, Sarai Ambert-Pompey MD Jesse Tyler McChane MD (Family Medicine), Elynn Smith, MD (Family Medicine), Kelsey Harding, MD (Family Medicine), Kara Kuntz, MD, Christopher S. Link, MD, AAHIVS, Leigh J. Hess MD (Obstetrics & Gynecology), Levi A. Evans MD (Family Medicine), Nathan Ord, MD, Jennifer Cook MD (Family Medicine), Michelle Hicks, FNP, Janet K. S. Roscoe, NP (Women's Health), Heather Powell, FNP-C (Family Medicine), Jeffrey K. Edwards, MD, MPH (Family Medicine), Alexandria Martin, MD, Chelsea Carlson, MD (Family Medicine), Sara Swaboda, MD, Sandy Mudge, MD, MPH/M, Neil Liotta MD, Elsa J Lee MD (Pediatrics), Tamara J Samuelson, LSW, Sherri Siegel NP, Andrew Narver, DO Family Medicine, Halley Katsky MS4, Stuart E. Ross MD, (OB/GYN), Michael Fields MD, Frank N. Johnson MD (Internal Medicine) Jeffrey Pennings DO, Eana King-Nalooka, Idaho WWAMI Medical Student, Caroline Beyer MD (Family Medicine), Katherine J. Gentry, MD (Obstetrics and Gynecology), Sarah Porter MD (Family Medicine), Dr. Jessica Morales DO (Internal Medicine), Morgan Haughton DO, Morgan Von Ry BA, MBA Candidate Jill C Mitchell DC, MBA, Annamarie Hofstetter, MD, Megan Schwehr, MD, Phebe L. Alley MD (Family Medicine), Ryann Milne-Price, MD, MPH (Family Medicine), R. Burke Archibald, MD (Ob/Gyn), J. Audie Black, Ph.D., ABN (Clinical Neuropsychology), Stephanie Morgan, DNP, CNM, WHNP-BC (Nurse Midwifery, Women's Health), Aurelia Nelson, MD, Emily Getlein-Marques, NP, Anthony Thiros, DO (Family Medicine), Britta Beasley MD, Bari Laskow, MD (Family Medicine), Katelyn Macdonald PA-C (Family Practice), Justin Bailey MD, FAAFP, (Family Medicine), Ashley M. Carvalho MD, MPH, Matthew Larsen MD, MPH, Alicia Carrasco, MD, MA, FACP, Jason Johnston MD (Family Medicine), David Southwick MBA, NHA (Director of Operations, Skilled Nursing Facility), Kim Stutzman, MD, Katie Andrews, PA, Cathy Canty MD, Grace Adamson, MD, JD, Neeraj Soni, MD (Emergency Medicine), Richard F. Paris MD (Family Medicine), Jennifer Looze, PA-C, Kathryn A. Woods MD (Family Medicine), Jessica Bennett CNM, APRN, Rebecca Siemers MD (Family Medicine), Jenny Stireman MSN NP, John Siemers MD (Internal Medicine), Julia Bouchard MD, Michael McMartin, MD (Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation), Mary Barinaga, MD (Family Medicine), Matthew Pockham, MD (OB/GYN), John J. Kim MD, Bronwyn C. Richards, MD (OB/GYN), Dr. Scott Crowe, MD, Lucy Camacho PA-C, Lisa Driscoll MD (Internal Medicine), Jennifer A. Farwell, DO (Obstetrics & Gynecology), Nancy Taylor, NP, Lifestyle Medicine, Chauce Dolan, RN, Richard J. Clews, AGACNP-BC, ANP-BC, Sara Palma, MSN, RN, Christian A. Hamlat, MD, MPH (Surgery), Sophia Lynch PA-C (Internal Medicine), Kathleen R Sutherland MD, (Pulmonologist), Kristin Linzmeyer MD, MPH, Janet Hollingsworth LPN (Womens Health), Ronda Williamson CNM, Stacie Woods, PA-C, BC-ADM, James A Wolf MD FACS MBA, John Williams MD Courtney Weaver, NP (Cardiology), Angela A. Brady RN, Eric S. Donahue, MD, Alinoa Autele Douglass, RN - Heart and Vascular, Jay Koehnke MD, Andrew L. Meshor, MD, Robert Cavagnoli, MD, MHA, FACS (General Surgery), Stephen Montamat, MD (Internal Medicine), Tonya Jenatt NP, Scott Bryan Armstrong MD, Audra Sandoval, PharmD, BCPS, Sean T Urquhart, MD, Codi Fitzgerald MD (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine), Saadia R Akhtar, MD, Alex Loehr, MD (Emergency Medicine), Tara Anthes MD Matthew Silvers, APRN NP, Darcie Levenson, PA-C (Family Medicine), David Wyler, DO (Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine), Sol H. Bockelle, MD (Family Medicine), Darren Coleman MD, (OB/GYN), Derek Linderman MD (Critical Care Medicine), Casey McRoy, MD, Michael Diggs, MD, Eric L.D. Scholten MD (Pulmonary & Critical Care Medicine), Robert M. Centeno, MD, Kerl K. Johnson, FNP-C (Family Practice) Nichole L Aker, DO (Family Medicine with Obstetrics), Raquel Croitoru MD, Eric Deutsch, R. Scott Hard, MD. (Anesthesiology), Rhiana Menen, MD (Attending of Breast and General Surgery), Kyle Irby, MD Jeff J Eldson, MD, Brenna Hise, MD (Anesthesiology), Raphael Streiff MD, Jairo Taylor, MD, Molly Armijo, MD (Family Medicine w/ OB), Jennifer L. Riha, RN, Arricruz Rodriguez BSN, RN (Primary Care) Aina Robert, MD, MPH, FACC (Interventional Cardiology), Daniel Gealy MD, Jansen Richins, MD (Pediatric Anesthesiology), Emily Deer MD (Radiology), Jerri Woodworth RNC-OB (Maternal Fetal Medicine), NJ Elsbury, MD, Tyson Warner, PA-C, Julia Jensen, DO, Sarah Maze, MD, Matthew Renner, MD, FACOG, Carissa Richardson MD, Creighton Lewis MD, Seth Price, MD, Kristin Algoe MD (Obstetrics and gynecology), Jenna R. Ingersoll, MD (Family Medicine), Shani K. Smith, DO, MBA (Critical Care Medicine), Miranda Smith, MD, Matt Hulquist, MD, (Emergency Medicine), Laura L. Tirrell, MD, MHSA (Family Medicine), Jonathan Hanowell MD, Penny Beach MD, (Family Medicine with Obstetrics), Kyla Shaver FNP, Emily Roskens, RN, Dylan S Mogk, MD (Hospitalist, Teaching fellow), Sarah Bardwell, MD (Family Medicine), Christina Ricci PA, Rebecca McCaffrey MD (OB-GYN), Molly Gerety, MSN, CRNA Megan Kitterman, CNM, (OB/GYN), Jill R. Gustafson, CNM, MSN (Obstetrics, Midwifery, & Gynecology), Elizabeth Thurmond, NP (Cardiac Electrophysiology), Daniel Preucil MD (Palliative and Supportive Care) Megan Brown PA-C (Urogynecology), Victoria S Rogers PAC (Emergency Medicine), Shannon Krebs, RN

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