

and at our affiliates

Beth Israel Lahey Health 

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE BOARD OF REGISTRATION IN MEDICINE  
RELATIVE TO PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO 243 CMR 1.00: DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS FOR  
PHYSICIANS AND 243 CMR 2.00: LICENSING AND THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.  
FEBRUARY 18, 2025

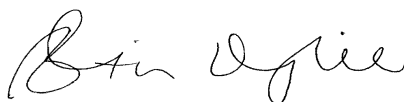
The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center provides full-spectrum reproductive, maternity, adult gender-affirming, and well-woman care to a patient population reflective of its community spanning across Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts region. Our obstetrician-gynecologists are committed to providing the highest quality care to all patients seeking our comprehensive obstetric and gynecological services.

Our department is in strong support of the emergency amendments in the Massachusetts Shield Law. The Massachusetts Shield Law was enacted to protect physicians and patients from legal actions, penalties, or extradition requests related to providing reproductive or gender affirming care that is legal in Massachusetts but restricted in other states. This is a critical step forward that protects the physicians who are experts in reproductive and gender-affirming care and ensures that their high-quality services can continue to reach the many patients who seek them.

Our department has decades of experience in providing full-spectrum reproductive and adult gender-affirming care. We have seen the life-changing impact that full-spectrum reproductive and gender-affirming care has on individuals and their loved ones. Enabling individuals to prevent undesired pregnancy, build a desired family, and feel affirmed in how they identify across the gender spectrum leads to positive health outcomes and healthier families and communities. Restricting physicians in delivering such important evidence-based care harms patients, families, and our broader communities. Without protections for physicians who provide comprehensive reproductive and gender-affirming care, people who seek these services may face delays in care and increased rates of poor mental health outcomes (such as anxiety, depression, and suicidality). We have an important opportunity to set an example for other states to follow in protecting the privacy of the patient-physician relationship and supporting the evidence-based care that patients seek in Massachusetts.



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