Massachusetts Medical Board February 7, 2025

RE: Proposed amendments 243 CMR 1.00: Disciplinary Proceedings for Physicians and 243 CMR 2.00: Licensing and the Practice of Medicine

Dear Committee members,

I am writing as a Maternal Fetal Medicine physician providing comprehensive medical care to high-risk pregnant women over the past 39 years, working at seven Massachusetts hospitals. Since 2004 I have been practicing at Boston Medical Center, and since 2023 I have been volunteering with the Cambridge Reproductive Health Consortium.

This resolution is important, as it is needed to provide protection for Mass physicians who also travel out of state to provide health care, and those who practice protected care, such as shield law abortion care in Massachusetts. There is no more important time to provide protections to those who require medical care to support their bodily autonomy.

Throughout the entirety of my career, I have worked with physicians who, while acknowledging abortion as part of comprehensive health care, have either chosen not to be involved in abortion care – or who did not acquire (or no longer have) the skills to provide this care. All women in Massachusetts benefit from the Mass. providers who DO practice abortion care as well as those who make referrals so that the pregnant people of the Commonwealth receive the highest levels of care and are allowed autonomy over this decision making. Over the past several years physicians in many states have been subjected to restrictions on who may benefit from abortion care, suffered threats to their jobs or their licenses if they MENTION, REFER, or PROVIDE care, and been subject to sanction by their medical board (Dr. Caitlin Bernard, Indiana) for providing legal evidence based medical care, or been brought up on charges for providing reproductive or gender affirming medical care.

These resolutions will allow physicians at risk of, or subjected to sanction or loss of license to be able to find sanctuary in Massachusetts, as well as to provide benefit to the people of the Commonwealth with the provision of evidence based medical care.

Please contact me if I may be of any assistance.

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