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Public Health Commissioner Margret R. Cooke's statement in support of Board of Registration in Pharmacy policy on reproductive health medications

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes access to abortion as a fundamental right and as a basic healthcare service which those in the healthcare system have an obligation to provide, facilitate or support. The guidance issued today by the [Massachusetts Board of Registration in Pharmacy](#) (BORP), clarifies that as an essential part of the healthcare system and under their regulatory obligations, all pharmacies and pharmacy departments are required to stock and/or procure all reproductive health medications, including mifepristone (Mifeprex®), and dispense those medications pursuant to a valid prescription and/or order.

Since the United States Supreme Court's June 2022 decision in *Dobbs*, millions of women and people who can become pregnant have lost access to abortion in their home states. This decision has allowed states to restrict abortion to the furthest extent possible, stripping access to basic and often life-saving healthcare. While Massachusetts remains steadfast in our support for abortion as a human right, we know that other states are making decisions that will ultimately result in increased maternal mortality and other ills of forced birth that will disparately impact poor women and women of color.

Twenty Attorneys General around the country have signed letters calling on pharmacies in their state to refuse to distribute mifepristone, an FDA-approved and essential abortion medication, based on a restrictive interpretation of the law and misrepresentation of facts. Yielding to these coercive tactics will further strip pregnant people of their agency and rights and will violate the responsibility of pharmacies and pharmacy departments to provide critical healthcare services, including medications for abortion care.

We urge pharmacy providers nationwide to commit to making all reproductive health medications available based on valid interpretations of state and federal law, and without political influence. BORP's guidance, issued today, reaffirms Massachusetts' commitment to ensuring access to abortion for all people throughout the Commonwealth.