

ACP Wisconsin Statement on Reproductive Healthcare in 2022

Approved by ACP-Wisconsin Governor's Council, August 2022

The Wisconsin chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP-Wisconsin) is greatly concerned by the June 24, 2022 Supreme Court of the United States decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and its immediate impact on reproductive healthcare in Wisconsin. This decision triggered a statewide abortion ban due to reactivation of 19th century Wisconsin statutes which had been invalidated by the 1973 US Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

ACP-Wisconsin echoes the concerns raised by our national ACP organization in its statement, namely that this decision limits a physician's autonomy, reduces patient access to reproductive health care, and erodes the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship. In Wisconsin, the concerns go beyond issues of government interference in private medical decisions. Patients may lose the right to access the full range of 21st century reproductive care options. Physicians and other health care clinicians face potential loss of licensure and criminal penalties for evidence-based, medically appropriate care. These legal constricts will make it more difficult to train and retain physicians in our state, especially in already underserved rural and poor communities.

ACP Wisconsin, like ACP National, strongly opposes medically unnecessary government restrictions or legislative interference in reproductive healthcare and other evidence-based healthcare delivery. ACP-Wisconsin will work collaboratively with the Wisconsin section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and other state medical professional societies and organizations to protect every patient's right to make their own private medical decisions and to advocate for the reproductive rights of all Wisconsin residents.

