



Experts in High-Risk Pregnancies Applaud SCOTUS Decision to Protect Access to Abortion Care in Louisiana

Federal Legislation is Needed to Protect Access to Abortion Care Nationwide

July 2, 2020, Washington, DC – The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued the statement below following the Supreme Court decision, *June Medical Services v. Russo*:

“This week, the Court struck down Louisiana’s medically-unnecessary law requiring abortion providers to have hospital admitting privileges. This law did not improve the health of patients or the quality of abortion care. SMFM detailed concerns about the law in an [amicus brief](#) with other experts in women’s health and applauds the Supreme Court on its decision. This win means that clinics in Louisiana can remain open to serve patients, including those with high-risk pregnancies.

SMFM supports access to the full spectrum of reproductive health services, including abortion. Reproductive health decisions are best made by an informed person in consultation with their health care provider.

The Louisiana law that was struck down was part of a larger effort designed to chip away at abortion access across the country. Other states have introduced a variety of medically unnecessary restrictions on abortion care providers, clinics, and patients, with the goal of ultimately eliminating access to abortion entirely. These restrictions disproportionately impact low-income people and people of color.

Access to safe, evidence-based, legal reproductive health services is critical to women's overall health. In order to safeguard abortion services and abortion providers throughout the United States, SMFM urges Congress to pass the [Women's Health Protection Act](#). This legislation would protect access to abortion care from:

- bans on abortion prior to viability;
- requirements that doctors provide medically inaccurate and, at times, false information to people seeking abortion care;
- restrictions on the ability to safely access medication abortion in the earliest weeks of pregnancy; and
- state-mandated medical procedures and protocols, such as forcing pregnant people to undergo ultrasounds and endure waiting periods for no medical reason.

Because maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) physicians primarily provide care to people experiencing high-risk pregnancies, the Society is particularly concerned with access to abortion

services for this population. People with high-risk pregnancies are more likely to experience medical complications – for themselves, their fetus(es), or both – that can lead to increased maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. For some of these people, access to abortion care can be life-saving.”

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About SMFM

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 5,000 physicians, scientists and women’s health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant women and their babies. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit [SMFM.org](https://www.smfm.org) and connect with organization on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).