



Pregnancy Experts Respond to Florida Supreme Court Rulings on Abortion

April 2, 2024, Washington, DC – The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) issued the following statement in response to the Florida Supreme Court rulings on Monday, April 1.

“The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine is outraged by the [Florida Supreme Court’s decision to uphold the state’s 15-week ban on abortion](#), functionally allowing a [6-week ban](#) to go into effect as soon as May 1. This decision undoes more than 30 years of legal precedent, and further restricts abortion care across the southeastern United States.

For decades, legislators have created barriers to evidence-based, patient-centered abortion care. Abortion restrictions disregard patient autonomy and harm the clinician-patient relationship. Pregnant patients are forced to travel for and delay care or are precluded from receiving abortion care altogether. Moreover, these effects fall disproportionately on those who are most marginalized, and only worsen health disparities and inequities. The decision out of Florida yesterday will only increase these barriers and the inequities they create.

In a separate decision yesterday, the [Florida Supreme Court allowed a ballot measure on abortion to move forward](#). The measure, which would protect abortion before fetal viability and when necessary to protect a patient’s health, will need at least 60% approval from Florida voters in order to be added to the state constitution.

Abortion care is an essential part of health care that should be accessible to all individuals. SMFM and its members will continue to oppose judicial and legislative interference into reproductive health care decisions that should be made by individuals with guidance from their health care providers.”

For additional comments or questions, please contact Kerri Wade at kwade@smfm.org.