



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS



Response to the Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*

The Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (GOGS) and the Georgia Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG-GA), representing obstetrician/gynecologists across our state, condemn the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the case of *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which undermines the patient-physician relationship and the practice of medicine.

The *Dobbs* ruling will deter patients from turning to their trusted physicians for compassionate care and will make physicians fearful of retribution for providing appropriate and often life-saving care. Patients will lose the ability to make decisions about their health, their families, and their futures. And physicians will be forced to practice under the specter of criminalization and counter to the best available evidence, their professional judgment, and their ethical obligation to their patients.

The decision in *Dobbs* will also upend health care infrastructure in our country. Legislative interference that begins in abortion care will consequently impede miscarriage and complex obstetrical management, threaten infertility treatments, and fuel efforts to target other essential care, including contraception. It marks the beginning of a frightening era for all health care professionals, where civil and criminal penalties may be rendered for the provision of evidence-based and necessary care.

Georgia already has among the highest maternal and infant mortality rates in the country, and the *Dobbs* decision will likely worsen these outcomes. We also have countless systematically marginalized communities in our state, and the ruling's harmful implications will be experienced most acutely by these patients, exacerbating the already unacceptable inequities in our health care system. However, in the face of the U.S. Supreme Court's devastating announcement, and despite the concerns raised above, we stand strong. GOGS and ACOG-GA are committed to mitigating the fallout of the *Dobbs* decision, to working with government officials to reverse and prevent further legislative interference, and to continuing to serve our patients to the best of our ability.

As we navigate these circumstances and prepare for the uncertainty that lies ahead, the leadership at GOGS and ACOG-GA ask that our physician members remain vigilant, but also steadfast and compassionate as we care for the patients of Georgia. We will continue to send email notifications as important changes arise, but you may also refer to our website and social media accounts to access up-to-date information about the status of reproductive and public health care legislation in Georgia.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for our profession and our patients.