

Dear GOGS Members,

Today, November 23, 2022, the Supreme Court of Georgia granted a stay on the ruling from the Superior Court of Fulton County from November 15.

- **This reinstates HB 481 into law in Georgia effective immediately.**
- **Abortion in Georgia is no longer legal after detection of fetal cardiac activity (approximately 6 weeks).**

There are exceptions to this law including:

- Pregnancies that result from rape or incest, if a police report has been filed
 - Removal of ectopic pregnancy
 - Medical emergencies, which are defined in the law as a situation “in which an abortion is necessary in order to prevent the death of the pregnant woman or the substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman.”
 - Medical futility, which is defined in the law as a situation in which “in reasonable medical judgement, an unborn child has a profound and irremediable congenital or chromosomal anomaly that is incompatible with sustaining life after birth.”
 - Miscarriage or stillbirth
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- [Resources](#) for patients about abortion remain accurate and reflect this change.
 - This is not the Supreme Court of Georgia’s decision on the case before it. Rather, today they ruled that HB 481 can be in effect as the law continues to go through the courts, which can take months.

We are disappointed that this restrictive ban has been reinstated. The back-and-forth is confusing for patients and their families and for clinicians and our teams. Our hearts go out to the patients who are impacted by this news today and their clinicians who must give them this distressing news. The Georgia Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (GOGS) and Georgia Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG-GA) are committed to patient-centered, compassionate, evidence-based health care. We oppose civil and criminal penalties for clinicians who provide such care. We also oppose any legislation that undermines the patient-physician relationship and the practice of medicine. We know these are difficult and uncertain times. During this Thanksgiving Holiday, please accept our gratitude for all that you continue to do for our profession and our patients. We will continue to communicate and share resources for you and your patients.

For further information:

Full text of [HB 481](#)

Resources from [ACOG](#)