

**Illinois State Medical Society
Illinois Health and Hospital Association
Illinois Section – American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists**

**Opposes HB 2
Efforts to Inappropriately Legislate the Practice of Medicine**

The Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS), the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA), and the Illinois Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (IL-ACOG) respectfully request your **NO** vote on HB 2, a bill that would create and legislate new standards of medical care that could do more harm to patients than help them. We are not opposed to clarifying patients' rights, particularly as they relate to maternal care, but those rights have to be balanced with the specific needs of the individual patient, especially as those needs arise in emergency situations. Patients' interests are best served when their medical providers are not restricted by legislation that ties their hands from providing necessary care.

ISMS, IHA, and IL-ACOG opposes this legislation for the following reasons:

- The bill creates a number of standards that are impossible for physicians and other medical providers to comply with because they are either too vague or too broad. Frequently, physicians provide maternity care services to patients who are very far along in their pregnancy and have not received prenatal care prior to that time. Similarly, physicians often see patients in an emergency room setting who were previously unknown to that physician.
- The bill creates a right to specific services and treatments that may not be provided by a particular health care professional or medical facility.
- Passage of HB 2 will make it more difficult for healthcare professionals to provide the care that patients need and could result in less access to care. In order to reduce maternal mortality rates, we need to ensure that pregnant mothers have access to quality care, particularly for those who are suffering from complex medical conditions.
- The bill fails to take into account changes that may occur in the course of maternity care, particularly during labor, where predetermined plans must be modified for the health and safety of the mother and baby when complications arise.

ISMS and IHA did offer an amendment that created a new section within the Medical Patient Rights Act and outlined a number of rights relating to maternal care while still providing medical providers flexibility to treat their patients' individual needs and emergency cases as necessary. That amendment was not adopted.

Please vote NO on HB 2.