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The Honorable Brad Little
State Capitol
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720

4/3/23

Dear Governor Little,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [HB 242](#) which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Idaho and put young Idahoans and their physicians at risk.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

HB 242 would create the term “abortion trafficking” to make aiding a person under the age of 18 in accessing abortion care a crime. What HB 242 fails to note is that abortion clinics and providers are decades ahead of HB 242.

Abortion clinics and the domestic violence community have long worked together to ensure the rights and physical autonomy of women. Advocates for women organized free-standing clinics beginning in the 1970s in part to enable

women to counsel other women and give patients a safe, judgment-free space to discuss their decision. By attempting to vilify abortion clinics and providers in the name of human trafficking, HB 242 misses a crucial opportunity to actually help trafficking victims by including the health care providers where they are more likely to seek treatment. According to the Joint Committee on Human Trafficking, sex trafficking victims, often teenagers, are trafficked to buyers approximately 20 times a day and most human trafficking reports conclude that healthcare providers are a “missed opportunity” for early intervention.

In allowing the government to intervene in the sacred relationship between a patient and physician, passing HB 242 would only make access to critical reproductive care more difficult and, indeed, dangerous for some of Idaho’s most vulnerable citizens. For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of HB 242.

For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at Stipton@asrm.org or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Thomas, MD
President
American Society for Reproductive Medicine