

IUPUI Faculty Council
Resolution Supporting Reproductive Health Care
March 7, 2023

The spring 2022 Supreme Court decision in Jackson Women’s Health Organization vs. Dobbs returned the issue of legal abortion access to states. The Indiana General Assembly soon passed Senate Bill 1 (signed into law as Senate Enrolled Act 1), banning legal abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or a pregnancy causing risk to a woman. The law was in effect for only a few days before two court challenges were filed in September 2022, and currently (March 2023), reproductive health care services, including abortion, are still legally available in Indiana under guidelines that had existed prior to the Dobbs decision. The new restrictions are likely to be reinstated within this current year, however and additional restrictions on reproductive options for Indiana residents may follow.

The academic effect of these reproductive healthcare restrictions on the academic mission of Indiana University are significant. These restrictions negatively impact the academic performance of students and their ability to succeed in higher education, particularly for low-income and out-of-state students. Without access to a full range of reproductive health care options, enrollment, course completion, and graduation will become more difficult, worsening Indiana’s already low college completion rate ([2022 ICHE College Readiness Report](#)).

Restrictions on reproductive health care will reduce higher education’s ability to attract and retain top faculty and student scholars, and limit the diversity of faculty and staff, who may choose not to work at a university or in a state that does not support a range of legal healthcare options ([Brookings](#)). This reduces higher education’s attractiveness as a dynamic intellectual environment and reduces competitiveness in attracting top scholars, researchers, staff, students, and educators. This is of special concern for physicians and medical providers where accreditation may become threatened with changing restrictions on medical education and inability to provide adequate training in medical schools, or where their own ability to practice medicine may be threatened by legal action.

Restrictions on reproductive health care will furthermore reduce attractiveness to businesses and investors in the state and near campuses. Cities and states that restrict reproductive health care are seen as less desirable places to live and work, leading to reduced investment and job growth ([American Progress](#)). This can negatively impact the local economy, limit opportunities for economic development, and increase poverty.

Finally, citizens of Indiana and members of the IU community who face restrictive barriers to accessing reproductive health care services are limited in their ability and autonomy to make informed decisions about their health care choices consistent with their moral, ethical, cultural, or religious beliefs.

Resolution

Resolution in Support of Reproductive Health at Indiana University

Whereas, Indiana University is committed to promoting and protecting the health, well-being, and rights of its students and employees;

Whereas, access to the full range of comprehensive and safe reproductive healthcare options to make decisions about one's health and well-being is an essential human right;

Whereas, physicians and medical professionals play a critical role in providing comprehensive and safe reproductive health care and should be able to offer these services to provide the best care for their patients without fear of legal or professional retribution;

Therefore, be it resolved that the IUPUI Faculty Council will support access to comprehensive, confidential, and affordable reproductive health care services for all students and employees, which includes contraception and access to abortion services, without facing barriers or discrimination. This includes respecting the autonomy of faculty, staff, and students to make informed decisions about their health care and reproductive choices based on their cultural, moral, and religious beliefs.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the IUPUI Faculty Council will support workplace and academic accommodations for faculty, staff, and students who require time off for reproductive health-related appointments, including contraception or abortion services, travel or time at home needed for abortion care, supported by IU Human Resources guidelines for faculty and staff, and federal Title IX protections for students.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the IUPUI Faculty Council will defend medical education and medical professionalism for all healthcare personnel, including those who provide abortion care. This includes support for a curriculum providing accurate medical training related to comprehensive reproductive health services, and respect for the autonomy of physicians to make medical decisions in accordance with their professional judgment and ethical obligations.

Therefore, be it further resolved that the IUPUI Faculty Council will protect faculty, staff and students from harassment and intimidation: The university has an obligation to ensure that all faculty, staff, and students are free from harassment or intimidation on the basis of their reproductive health care choices, particularly decisions based on their personal beliefs. The university should not tolerate harassment, intimidation, or retaliation against physicians and medical personnel who provide abortion care, and should take steps to protect physicians and their patients from such behavior.

Therefore, be it finally resolved that, given the educational mission of Indiana University, the IUPUI Faculty Council will advocate for initiatives to educate our community on the importance of reproductive rights and healthcare through informational events and workshops, and educational programs to address and reduce the root causes of healthcare disparities that lead to Indiana's excessive maternal and infant mortality. Finally, we advocate for a significant increase in campus investment in all IU parents and families with young children through increased availability of affordable options for flexible, responsive, and accessible childcare, campus housing, and other support services to meet the diverse needs and schedules of faculty, staff, and students in caring for their young families.

Conclusion:

We stand together, as faculty governance leaders of IUPUI, to take a strong and forceful stand in support of comprehensive reproductive health care for all faculty, staff, and students. We express strong support for our IUSM medical professionals: M.D.s, R.N.s, N.P.s, and others working to maintain medical excellence by safely providing the full range of reproductive services without fear or threats to their lives and profession. We respect women and pregnant people as fully recognized citizens who have the right to make decisions about their health care and reproductive choices, informed by sound medical advice. We support IU faculty, staff, and students in their need for a flexible work environment, academic schedules, and affordable childcare options.

Given our statewide educational mission, we oppose measures that seek to limit the reproductive, cultural, and religious autonomy of students, staff, and faculty of the IU community and all citizens of the Hoosier state. Given our statewide medical education and healthcare missions, we further oppose any effort to limit the ability of IU physicians and residents to provide patients with the care they need, to provide medical students and residents with the training they need, and we support legal protections for patients and physicians.

We ask that you join us in full support to advocate for initiatives within IU, and statewide, to adopt broad and effective policies that will increase access to reproductive healthcare, strengthen our world-class medical education and medical care system, expand family-friendly policies and environments, and increase student success at IU.

This resolution reflects the opinion the IUPUI Faculty Council and does not purport to represent the opinion of all faculty or Indiana University.

Approved by the IUPUI Faculty Council at their meeting on March 7, 2023.

For Further Reading
From the IUPUI Office for Women:
Statements on Reproductive Rights after Dobbs decision

1. [American Academy of Pediatrics](#)
2. [American Association of University Women](#)
3. [American Bar Association](#)
4. [American Medical Association](#)
5. [Association of American Medical Colleges](#)
6. [American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology](#)
7. [American Psychological Association](#)
8. [International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics](#)
9. [NAACP](#)
10. [National Women's Studies Association](#)
11. [Sister Song](#)
12. [United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women](#)
13. [United Nations Commission on Women, Statement: Reproductive rights are women's rights and human rights](#)
14. [US Department of Justice](#)
15. [US President Executive Order](#)

Other Resources used:

1. [2022 ICHE College Readiness Report](#). Indiana Commission for Higher Education
2. [Colleges aren't prepared for Roe's fall](#) Politico.com
3. [Experts Encourage College Campuses to Prepare for Repercussions of Roe v. Wade's Overturn](#) Insight Into Diversity
4. Harris, L. H. (2022) "[Navigating Loss of Abortion Services - A Large Academic Medical Center Prepares for the Overturn of Roe v. Wade](#)" *N Engl J Med* 386:2061-2064.
5. [Likely Impact of Overturning Roe v. Wade on Women College Students and Women Scientists](#) Medium.com
6. [Religious freedom challenge to Indiana abortion ban not going directly to state Supreme Court](#): NPR
7. [State Abortion Bans Will Harm Women and Families' Economic Security Across the US](#): American Progress
8. [The end of Roe creates new challenges in higher education](#): Brookings.edu
9. [There is No Equality Without Reproductive Rights](#): League of Women Voters
10. Traub, A.M., K. Mermin-Bunnell, P.Pareek, S. Williams, N.B. Connell, J.F. Kawwass, et al. (2022) "[The implications of overturning Roe v. Wade on medical education and future physicians](#)", *The Lancet Regional Health - Americas*, vol.14: 100334.