

February 24, 2009

Honorable Nancy Barto
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Rep. Barto:

As practicing physicians in the state, we wish to express our support of HB 2564, the Abortion Consent Act. Each of us has dedicated our career to giving our patients the best care possible, regardless of our political or ideological beliefs on the issue of abortion. While many of us disagree on the controversial issue, we all agree that women should be given the best care possible – this includes being informed about the decisions they make.

Under current state law, women are vulnerable of making uninformed and uneducated decisions about their healthcare. While every doctor should be giving their patients the details of the procedure, the reality is that abortion providers are failing to do this. Passing the Abortion Consent Act would empower women to make informed choices about their healthcare while ensuring that physicians are providing the best care possible. Making sure women are informed about these important decisions is good public policy.

We see the Abortion Consent Act as a reasonable, common-sense approach to giving women accurate medical information. As long as abortion is legal in our country, we strongly support making sure women are making informed decisions on their own, and not by coercion or intimidation.

We also agree with the Abortion Consent Act that providing women with the best healthcare means that only licensed physicians should be performing surgical abortions. Only trained gynecologists are able to handle the complications that arise from abortion procedures, and adding this to our state laws will only better protect women.

Furthermore, we support fellow healthcare professionals that wish to refrain from performing abortions based on moral convictions. A doctor, nurse, or pharmacist should not be forced to choose between their livelihood and their moral convictions on the issue of abortion.

We look forward to seeing HB 2564 passed into law so that women in our state can be empowered to make informed decisions about their healthcare, and that health-care workers can have their liberties protected.

Sincerely,

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