

PROPOSED ACEP BOARD RESOLUTION

Emergency Physician Protection from Legal Jeopardy Related to Elective Abortion Management

WHEREAS elective abortion is distinct from pregnancy termination due to medical interventions necessary to prevent death or medical harm to the mother, and

WHEREAS elective abortion, regardless of whether legally recognized as a patient right in any state, does not constitute an acute emergency medical condition requiring medical stabilization in the Emergency Department, and

WHEREAS the medical and legal landscape regarding abortion laws is unstable and rapidly changing, causing nonuniform liability standards for medical care, and

WHEREAS any ACEP practice or ethical standard governing Emergency Physician management of patients seeking elective abortions that conflicts with one or more state laws will force Emergency Physicians to choose between violating state laws or violating ACEP practice guidelines or ethical standards,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That ACEP shall not establish policies or assert an ethical standard of care regarding management of patients seeking elective abortions in the Emergency Department.