



The following is an excerpt from the “Report of 2024 Resolutions Requiring an Update to the 2025 House of Delegates” and includes the section of the report relevant to Proposition 1.

Resolution 106(24), PROTECTING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RIGHTS, was authored by Loren Colson, DO, and sponsored by the Idaho Coalition for Safe Healthcare and Idaho Academy of Family Physicians. The resolved clause was referred to the IMA Board of Trustees (BOT) for action and report back to the House of Delegates (HOD) in 2025.

RESOLVED, Idaho Medical Association support any legislation or ballot measure that seeks to protect a patient’s right to reproductive healthcare including access to abortion prior to fetal viability.

At its October 6, 2024, meeting - held immediately following HOD - the BOT discussed Resolution 106(24). This discussion followed the BOT’s earlier action on October 3, 2024, in which it approved a motion to monitor the Idahoans United for Women and Families (IUWF) ballot initiative and consider taking a position once the final language of the initiative became available. The BOT ultimately affirmed this approach and deferred further discussion to its January 2025 meeting.

At the January 31, 2025, meeting, the BOT revisited Resolution 106(24) and expressed concern that its language - specifically, the directive to support “any” legislation or ballot measure aimed at protecting patients’ access to reproductive healthcare - was inconsistent with existing IMA policy. Such broad support also circumvents the established process for evaluating the specific language of proposed legislation or ballot initiatives. In addition, updates from IUWF indicated that ballot language had not yet been finalized. Accordingly, the BOT voted to address both the resolution and the IUWF initiative at its April 2025 meeting.

During its April 25, 2025, meeting, the BOT reviewed the finalized language submitted by IUWF. The initiative seeks to protect access to contraception and IVF, legalize abortion up to the point of fetal viability, legalize abortion beyond viability in cases of medical emergencies, and shield physicians from criminal prosecution. On the same day, the Idaho Supreme Court heard arguments in a lawsuit brought by IUWF challenging the long and short ballot titles drafted by the Attorney General’s office, which IUWF alleged to be biased and misleading. After reviewing these developments, the BOT chose to continue monitoring the initiative and to revisit the resolution during its July 2025 retreat.

On June 16, 2025, the Idaho Supreme Court issued a decision ruling partially in favor of IUWF that the AG must revise the language of the Short Title but allow the Long Title language to stand. In addition, the Court ruled that the Division of Financial Management must revise the fiscal impact statement. Both revisions had a due date of June 23, 2025.

On July 11, 2025, during the first day of its retreat, the BOT revisited first the IUWF initiative and then Res 106(24). After careful deliberation and weighing the risks and benefits, the BOT ultimately decided to remain neutral on the ballot initiative at this time.

First and foremost, the BOT felt that taking a position of support on the initiative would directly contradict current IMA policy adopted by the House of Delegates in 2023, which states: "Furthermore, IMA will not have an official position on abortion and believes it is up to individual members to decide their position on abortion."

In addition, IMA's experience following voter-approved Medicaid expansion has highlighted the tremendous strain and potential for fallout that accompanies high-profile ballot campaigns. The political impact of IMA's support of the Medicaid initiative continues to reverberate today, and a handful of IMA priorities have suffered as a result.

Supporting the abortion initiative would require an even greater expenditure of political capital in a state as conservative as Idaho, limiting our ability to advance other critical priorities such as graduate medical education, modifying Idaho's parental consent law and – most importantly – pursuing a practical path for a health exception. The latter is extremely important regardless of whether or not the ballot initiative is a success.

Remaining neutral for now preserves IMA's ability to work directly with legislators on establishing a meaningful health exception, which has been IMA's top priority the three previous legislative sessions. If the ballot initiative were to pass, it is almost certain that the legislature would move quickly to dismantle major portions of it, resulting in referendum battles, legal challenges, and years of uncertainty. By taking a neutral position, IMA remains positioned as a constructive, physician-led partner helping to craft a legislative fix that protects physicians and patients while the uncertainty plays out.

Although IMA will remain neutral on the ballot initiative at this time, the BOT encourages individual members to stay informed and to participate as they see fit. The BOT has instructed IMA staff to provide educational updates in our regular forms of communications to ensure members understand the implications and potential outcomes.

MOTION: IMA WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL ON THE IDAHOANS UNITED FOR WOMEN & FAMILIES ABORTION BALLOT INITIATIVE, WHILE PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL UPDATES TO MEMBERS AND ENCOURAGING INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS TO ENGAGE IN THE PROCESS AS THEY SEE FIT.

Seconded and passed by voice vote.