**ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE**

The North Carolina Medical Society supports access to comprehensive, safe, equitable, and evidence-based quality care for every individual of reproductive age, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, creed, culture, disability, geography, or financial status.

Therefore, the North Carolina Medical Society will advocate and support efforts to:

* Recognize abortion as an essential part of equitable medical care, including for those individuals who experience high-risk conditions during pregnancy or have pre-existing conditions that may be exacerbated during pregnancy.
* Protect access to a qualified health professional for guidance and care for all reproductive health services, regardless of location or geography.
* Oppose government or corporate interference in an individual’s ability or right to access reproductive health services, including abortion and contraception, which further worsens disparities and increases inequities in maternal health outcomes for people with limited economic resources and people of color.
* Assure that medical judgement by a qualified licensed health professional is the standard for determining the presence of an emergent or potentially emergent situation and determining the appropriate course of action and care needed.
* Uphold the integrity of medicine and appropriate standards of care through evidence-based guidance and determinations.
* Preserve the patient-licensed health professional relationship and the collaborative autonomy to make decisions that best meet the patient’s medical needs and goals.
* Condemn any attempt at or exertion of legal or regulatory penalties or retaliation against health care professionals, patients, advocates, and organizations that aid in providing reproductive health services and other medical care.
* Endorses the AMA’s [*Code of Medical Ethics*](https://www.ama-assn.org/sites/ama-assn.org/files/corp/media-browser/principles-of-medical-ethics.pdf), including the obligation to ensure that patients have access to needed emergency services while respecting the autonomy of licensed health professionals’ to honor their own moral beliefs.

The North Carolina Medical Society fundamentally values compassion and respect for human dignity and rights, enabling our patients to have self-determination and bodily autonomy.

Furthermore, the North Carolina Medical Society recognizes and respects that individuals facing complex circumstances may make a thoughtful decision to bear children or not, consistent with their personal values. Our professional obligation to provide unbiased, evidence-based guidance and care includes reproductive health services and requires we protect our patients’ ability to make their own choices.