**ACCESS TO COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE**

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

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

* Recognize abortion as an essential part of comprehensive reproductive medical care.
* Enhance accessibility to pregnancy and post-natal services.
* Preserve and protect the relationship between patients and qualified health professionals, and promote shared-decision making among available options for care that best meet patients’ medical needs and goals.
* Promote access to a qualified health professional for guidance and care for all reproductive health services, regardless of location.
* Assure that medical judgment, based on a holistic assessment of the pregnant patient’s condition by a qualified 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.
* Endorse the AMA’s [*Principles of Medical Ethics*](https://code-medical-ethics.ama-assn.org/principles), including the obligation to ensure that patients have access to needed emergency services while respecting the autonomy of qualified health professionals’ to honor their own moral beliefs.
* Affirm that the decision to continue or end a pregnancy is influenced by an individual’s cultural, ethical, philosophical, and religious values and beliefs. Regulation\* should not impose undue burdens that supplant pregnant people’s values, beliefs and circumstances or impede the ability of qualified health professionals to support their patients.
* Uphold the integrity of medicine to determine evidence-based standards of care for counseling and treatment.
* Ensure health care providers and trainees in North Carolina receive medical education in [Reproductive Justice](https://www.sistersong.net/reproductive-justice), including core competency in comprehensive family planning, contraception, and pregnancy termination.
* Oppose government, institutional, or corporate interference in individuals’ ability or right to access reproductive health and support services.
* Correct inequities in reproductive health care and health outcomes for people disadvantaged by socioeconomic status and people of color.
* Prevent restrictions that heighten medical risks for individuals with high-risk conditions during pregnancy or have pre-existing conditions that may be exacerbated during pregnancy.
* Condemn any attempt to impose legal or regulatory\* penalties or retaliation against health care professionals, patients, advocates, and organizations that aid in providing reproductive health services.

The North Carolina Medical Society fundamentally values compassion and respect for human dignity and rights, empowering patient 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 advocate for our patients’ rights to make their own choices.