

April 16, 2019

The Honorable Roy Cooper  
Governor of the State of North Carolina  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Re: SB 359 Veto Request

Dear Governor Cooper,



P.O. Box 28004  
Raleigh, NC 27611  
(919) 834-3466  
acluofnc.org

Jennifer Watson Marsh  
President

Karen M. Anderson  
Executive Director

As an organization deeply committed to ensuring reproductive freedom and access to abortion care in North Carolina, we write to you today on behalf of our more than 22,000 members and supporters to urge you to veto SB 359. If enacted, SB 359 would interfere with the patient-provider relationship, target health care providers, and mislead the public about safe, legal abortion care.

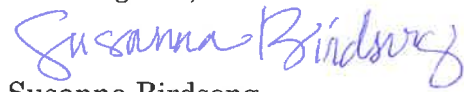
SB 359 inappropriately inserts politicians into the practice of medicine. It would impose a rigid set of requirements on health care providers that entirely disregards their professional training and clinical judgment, as well as established medical standards. Physicians in North Carolina already follow rigorous licensing requirements, standards of care, and ethical codes when providing care to pregnant patients. The bill couples these requirements with the threat of serious criminal and civil penalties, including a minimum of more than three years in prison, for providers who do not comply. Such legislative intrusion is inappropriate and harmful, and shows a callous disregard for patients in need of compassionate, evidence-based care when they face difficult decisions.

The real aim of SB 359 is to distort public perception of safe, legal abortion care, those who provide it, and those who need it, in order to restrict access. The bill is designed to intimidate abortion providers with the threat of harsh penalties and uncertain standards in order to drive them out of practice and to scare away patients seeking constitutionally-protected health care. Throughout pregnancy, patients should be able to make personal medical decisions based on their health and without political interference. SB 359 would undermine this by substituting health care providers' best judgment with that of politicians. As a result, it would harm doctors' ability to provide—and patients' ability to access—appropriate, compassionate, evidence-based care.

For the reasons above, the ACLU of North Carolina and our more

than 22,000 members and supporters ask that you veto SB 359.

Best Regards,



Susanna Birdsong  
Senior Policy Counsel  
sbirdsong@acluofnc.org

