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New Report Details How Post-Roe Abortion Bans Continue to Harm Patients and Providers

San Francisco, California – A new report from University of California San Francisco’s Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH) released today shows how health care providers are still unable to provide standard medical care in states with abortion bans more than two years after the fall of *Roe*. This has led to delays, denials of care, and worsened health outcomes, along with an increased financial and emotional toll on patients. These findings, which build on a preliminary report published in May 2023, suggest that abortion bans are fundamentally eroding health care for pregnant people and those who may be pregnant in the future.

The report findings suggest that, rather than increasing clarity and identifying workarounds over time to provide evidence-based care, abortion bans have fundamentally altered how pregnancy-related care – and even other medical care for people with the capacity for pregnancy – is delivered. The report paints a stark picture of how abortion bans are shifting the way clinical care is provided for the worse.

“In the two years since *Roe* fell, medical care has become dangerously warped as states with abortion bans continue to tie the hands of providers. This research shows that every pregnant person in these states is at risk of being denied the care they need,” **said Dr. Daniel Grossman, ANSIRH Director and lead report author.** “Instead of policy band aids or exceptions that don’t work, we need to repeal abortion bans so that clinicians can do the job they were trained for – provide high quality health care to their patients.”

The report explores how patients have been impacted through 86 narratives submitted by health care providers from September 2022 to August 2024. The report documents a wide range of harm occurring among pregnant people in states with abortion bans, including increased morbidity, and complications that could result in serious impairment and risk of death. The report notes that longer-term effects, which were not captured in this study, could include loss of fertility, chronic pelvic pain due to infection or surgery, or heart attack and stroke related to uncontrolled hypertension, as well as effects on mental health.

The narratives also provide insight into the increased emotional and financial toll that patients endured. This included cases where patients were distraught from delayed or denial of care, with one provider noting, “*patient was in pain and devastated. Before the concern over new laws, we could have intervened much*

earlier and prevented trauma.” Other narratives noted that patients would have been covered by insurance in their home state but had to pay for health care costs out of pocket when they traveled to another state. The logistical challenges were particularly acute for those who had to arrange care for their children, get time off work, or pay for travel to a distant state.

“Our research shows that patients – at a time when they are experiencing threats to their health – are forced to face the trauma of being delayed or denied treatment. Many are also pushed into the escalating costs of more complex care and the hardships associated with traveling out of state,” said Katrina Kimport, **ANSIRH Professor and co-author of the study.** “Essentially, laws limiting abortion care make difficult situations even more burdensome.”

Additionally, the report underscores the emotional and professional impacts on clinicians. Providers expressed moral distress at being forced to follow medically unsound practices, where they knew how to correctly manage a patient, but institutional or governmental policies prevented them from doing so. One provider called abortion restrictions “*a gross violation of common sense and the oath I took when I got into this profession.*”

“This study shows that abortion bans are fundamentally degrading medical care – not just in a single state or for a certain type of patient but for people with a range of health conditions living anywhere these bans are in place. That a high proportion of patients described in the study narratives are Black and Latinx makes this even more concerning given the long-standing structural barriers to high quality care that these groups encounter in the US medical system,” noted **Dr. Kari White, Executive Director of Resound Research and study co-author.**

Advancing New Standards in Reproductive Health (ANSIRH), based at the University of California, San Francisco, conducts rigorous scientific research on complex issues related to reproductive health in the United States and internationally. ANSIRH provides much-needed evidence for active policy debates and legal battles around reproductive health issues. To learn more, please visit www.ansirh.org.