

**ACMG Calls on Courts to Stop Texas Abortion Law:  
*Law Will Allow Individuals to Sue Anyone Performing, "Aiding or Abetting"  
a Pregnancy Termination After Approximately Six Weeks***

Despite legal challenges, a radical Texas law restricting the vast majority of abortions is now in effect. The new law (SB8), the most restrictive in the country, prohibits all abortions, including those resulting from rape or incest, after detection of a fetal heartbeat except in the case of a medical emergency. Further, the law opens providers, clinical staff, and any other persons that "aid or abet" an abortion, including merely driving a patient to a clinic, to lawsuits from any citizen, who can collect \$10,000 if they win the suit.

As stated in ACMG's 2019 [statement](#) on access to reproductive options after prenatal diagnosis, the ACMG opposes laws that prevent or restrict access to pregnancy termination, including those after prenatal diagnosis of genetic disorders or congenital anomalies. The ACMG strongly opposes any laws that criminalize healthcare professionals and others for informing patients of their options, including termination of pregnancy, or in any way undermine the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and principles of autonomy.

Numerous abortion providers had challenged the Texas law in federal court. The defendants' motion to dismiss the suit was rejected by the federal district court, which scheduled a hearing on whether to block the law. The defendants filed an appeal and, just before the August 30<sup>th</sup> hearing was set to take place, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit cancelled the hearing and allowed the law to go into effect. The plaintiffs then filed an emergency application, asking the Supreme Court to block the law from going into effect while the legal challenges are worked out. The Supreme Court, in a single paragraph, denied the emergency request by a 5-4 ruling. The case now returns to the district court for further proceedings.

ACMG is appalled by the Supreme Court's response. This law blatantly violates the constitutional right established under *Roe v. Wade* which has been upheld for nearly half a century. We implore the federal courts in Texas to take action to stop this unconstitutional law that blocks patients' access to safe healthcare options, interferes with the clinical judgement of physicians, and subjects clinical providers and staff to punitive lawsuits.

September 2, 2021