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January 29, 2021

The Honorable Al Baldasaro
Chairman, State-Federal Relations and Veterans Affairs Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
LOB Room 206, 107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Baldasaro:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I am writing to express our concern about abortion-related legislation that would interfere with physicians' ability to provide timely reproductive medical care to women in New Hampshire. We believe such legislation represents a troubling legislative intrusion into the practice of medicine.

The AMA believes that all women should have access to reproductive health services, including abortion. The early termination of pregnancy is a safe, established, and accepted medical practice, and the decision whether, when, and how to perform an abortion is a medical matter that should be made between a physician and his or her patient, free of external interference and subject to the physician's clinical judgment, the patient's informed consent, and the standards of good medical practice.

Protecting the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship, including defending the freedom of communication and medical decision-making between patients and their physicians, is a core priority for the AMA and a fundamental tenet of high-quality medical care. We view efforts to deny patients access to established and accepted medical services as unacceptable governmental interference into the practice of medicine. We strongly urge you and the members of your committee to reject legislation that would limit timely access to abortion and other reproductive health services.

We thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this important matter. If the AMA can be of assistance, please contact Annalia Michelman, JD, AMA Advocacy Resource Center, at annalia.michelman@ama-assn.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Madara". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "M".

James L. Madara, MD

cc: New Hampshire Medical Society