

PHYSICIANS FOR POLICY ACTION

July 11, 2018

Representative Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo:

We, the undersigned, are writing on behalf of Physicians for Policy Action a health advocacy group based at Harvard Medical School and comprised of more than 170 physicians and health professionals in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. We wish to express our concern about the urgent threat to the rights of our patients. With the retirement of Justice Kennedy from the U.S. Supreme Court, we share a well-founded fear that constitutional right to privacy, affording the right to abortion, established in *Roe v. Wade* will be overturned in the near future. *Roe vs Wade* and the right to safe, legal abortion have been the law in the United States for over 45 years. A bi-partisan majority of Americans – 72% - support *Roe*, recognizing the right to control one's body is an essential American liberty.

Repealing *Roe* threatens the lives and the health of our patients and our communities. It is therefore imperative that the Massachusetts legislature act immediately to protect the right to full reproductive health care for all people of the Commonwealth, even if that right comes under threat at the federal level. Unfortunately, we still have archaic and discriminatory laws on the books in Massachusetts that might be used to the detriment of the public health in Massachusetts should *Roe* be repealed.

As concerned health care providers and active voters in Massachusetts we are asking you to support passage of S.2260, *An Act negating archaic statutes targeting young women*. This bill currently sits before the Committee on House Ways and Means. We call on you and your colleagues to ensure that all of these archaic laws are removed by passing this bill before July 31st, so that Governor Baker can sign it into law. At the same time, we pledge to work with you on behalf of access to family planning and reproductive health care for all women and men in our state and our country.

Thank you for your consideration of these important issues and please contact us if we may offer further support for the passage of this bill. Women's health has always been central to the values of Massachusetts. We hope the legislature will continue to prioritize reproductive freedom and protect the health and safety of all people.

Sincerely Yours,

Physicians for Policy Action

CC: Representative Ronald Mariano, Majority Leader
Representative Bradley H. Jones Jr., Minority Leader
Representative Jeffrey Sánchez, Chair of House Ways & Means
Representative Todd M. Smola, Ranking Minority Member, House Ways & Means