Idaho Physicians Open Letter: Vote NO on Proposition 1

We, the undersigned Idaho physicians, write to correct false claims about Idaho's abortion laws and to warn voters about the extreme, medically dangerous effects of Proposition 1 (the "Reproductive Freedom and Privacy Act").

The facts, not the rhetoric. Abortion advocates claim Idaho's abortion laws caused a mass exodus of OB/GYNs after going into effect in 2022. Official data from the Idaho Board of Medicine show the opposite: the number of licensed OB/GYNs has risen roughly 20% since those laws took effect. Many physicians, including some of us, have moved to Idaho precisely because the state protects both mothers and babies.

They also claim the laws block life-saving care. That is false. Idaho law explicitly allows abortion when a physician, in their good-faith medical judgment, determines it is necessary to prevent the mother's death - including in cases of ectopic pregnancy and placental abruption. The Idaho Supreme Court has affirmed the wide latitude given to physicians. No doctor has been prosecuted for providing such care. Maternal mortality in Idaho has fallen since 2022 to well below the national average.

What Proposition 1 actually does. The fine print of Proposition 1 would:

1. **Redefine "fetal viability"** so that a baby who needs extra neonatal care, like oxygen and NICU support, is no longer considered viable. This would allow painful late-term abortions into the eighth month of pregnancy - far later in pregnancy than most Idahoans would support.

2. **Eliminate parental notice and consent** for abortion for minors, including girls as young as 11 or 12. It grants a broad "right to privacy" to every person and allows "any person" to facilitate an abortion. This would make abortion the only procedure that can be performed on a minor without a parent's consent.

3. **Allow non-physicians to perform abortions**. The measure replaces the requirement that a physician perform the procedure with permission for a "licensed health care provider" to perform an abortion. Removing the physician requirement would put women's lives at serious risk.

Proposition 1 is extreme, deceptive, and medically unsafe. It does not protect women; it endangers them and strips parents of their rights while expanding late-term abortion.

We urge Idaho voters to reject Proposition 1. Keep Idaho a place that values and protects both mothers and babies. **Vote NO**.

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