FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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59 Idaho Physicians Sign Open Letter Opposing Proposition 1

Doctors Rebut "Vote Yes" Campaign's TV Ad, Say Idaho Law Already Lets Them Provide Emergency Care

BOISE, Idaho — Fifty-nine Idaho physicians today released an open letter urging voters to reject Proposition 1, warning that the measure would legalize late-term abortion, strip parents of consent rights for minors, and allow non-physicians to perform abortions.

The letter directly challenges the central claim of the television ad the "Vote Yes" campaign is currently airing statewide, which tells voters that Idaho's abortion law "has no real exceptions" and that doctors' "hands are tied" in medical emergencies.

> *"That is false," the physicians write. "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."*

The signers also dispute the campaign's narrative that Idaho's abortion laws drove physicians out of the state, pointing to Idaho Board of Medicine data showing the number of licensed OB/GYNs has risen roughly 20% since the laws took effect in 2022, and that maternal mortality in Idaho has fallen since then to well below the national average.

Beyond correcting the record on current law, the letter warns that Proposition 1's text — not its campaign messaging — would go far beyond the "common sense exceptions" proponents describe:

1. It would redefine "fetal viability" to exclude a baby who needs extra neonatal support such as oxygen and NICU care, opening the door to abortion into the eighth month of pregnancy.
2. It would eliminate parental notice and consent for minors seeking abortion, making abortion the only medical procedure a minor could undergo without a parent's consent.
3. It would remove the requirement that a physician perform the procedure, permitting any "licensed health care provider" to do so.

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

The letter was signed by dozens of physicians from all across the state of Idaho, including obstetricians and gynecologists (OB-GYNs), neonatologists (NICU specialists), pediatricians, pediatric hospitalists, family practitioners and more who strongly urge the citizens of Idaho to vote NO on Prop 1. The full letter and list of signatories is available at this LINK and physicians opposed to Prop 1 can add their names by emailing: DoctorsAgainstProp1@pm.me.

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Paid for by Too Extreme for Idaho PAC

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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