DATE: 00/00/18

**Resolution to Oppose the Criminalization of Self-Induced Abortion**

INTRODUCED BY: [Name(s) and State Chapter]

WHEREAS self-induced abortion involves women attempting to induce abortion without medical assistance[[1]](#footnote-1)

WHEREAS laws criminalizing self-induced abortion increase health risks and deter patients from seeking necessary healthcare services related to self-induced abortion or miscarriage[[2]](#footnote-2), and

WHEREAS laws criminalizing patients who self-induce abortion lead to increased suspicion towards patients presenting to healthcare providers for miscarriage[[3]](#footnote-3), and

WHEREAS from the beginning of 2011 through July 2016, states enacted 334 new legal restrictions on abortion, further limiting access to abortion care. In 2018 alone, 695 provisions have already been introduced to further restrict abortion[[4]](#footnote-4), and

WHEREAS National studies of abortion patients have shown that approximately 2% of patients attempted to self induce an abortion at some point in their lives. That number is higher in states such as Texas with stricter legal restrictions on abortion, where one study showed that 7% of patients attempted some method to end their pregnancy before presenting to the clinic[[5]](#footnote-5), and

WHEREAS Google search trends from 2005 and 2015 have shown a relative increase in searches for self-induced abortion that correlate with state-based abortion restrictions[[6]](#footnote-6), including a recent online study of 1,235 people who google searched “self-abortion”, of whom almost three-quarters (73%) indicated that they were searching for information because they were pregnant and did not or may not want to be[[7]](#footnote-7).

WHEREAS the ability and willingness to access medical care if complications relating to self-induced abortion arise is essential for patient safety[[8]](#footnote-8), and

WHEREAS people of color are disproportionately targeted for prosecution and criminalization related to pregnancy outcomes[[9]](#footnote-9), and

WHEREAS the Academy of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) has taken a very strong position that patients should not be prosecuted for trying to end their own pregnancies. ACOG additionally opposes forcing physicians to share information about patients due to its burdensome interference in the patient-provider relationship[[10]](#footnote-10), now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the [Your State Academy] will lobby against any legislative efforts to criminalize self-induced abortion, and furthermore be it

RESOLVED that the [Your State Academy] will bring a resolution to the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) National Congress of delegates stating that the AAFP will advocate and lobby against any legislative efforts to criminalize self-induced abortion.

1. https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/News-Room/News-Releases/2018/Criminalization-of-Self-Induced-Abortion-Intimidates-and-Shames-Women-Unnecessarily [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Rowan, Andrea. "Prosecuting women for self-inducing abortion: Counterproductive and lacking compassion." *Guttmacher Policy Review* 18.3 (2015): 70-76. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. ibid [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. <https://www.guttmacher.org/united-states/abortion> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Position-Statements/Decriminalization-of-Self-Induced-Abortion [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. https://thinkprogress.org/map-google-searches-for-self-induced-abortion-track-almost-perfectly-with-anti-choice-states-c6c01db3e692/ [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. http://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824(18)30068-4/fulltext#ac0005 [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [https://www.sialegalteam.org/halt-criminalizatio](https://www.sialegalteam.org/halt-criminalization) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. https://rewire.news/article/2018/02/06/mississippi-woman-criminally-charged-pregnancy-outcome-home-birth/ [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. https://www.acog.org/About-ACOG/News-Room/News-Releases/2018/Criminalization-of-Self-Induced-Abortion-Intimidates-and-Shames-Women-Unnecessarily [↑](#footnote-ref-10)