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IN RE OF AMICI CURIAE¹

Amici are in joint medical organizations representing physicians and other clinicians who are experts in South Dakota and nationwide. Their work has been cited frequently by the Supreme Court and other federal courts seeking authoritative medical facts and guidance regarding the protection of healthcare for pregnant people, including childbirth and abortion. A full list of amici provided in the appendix to this brief.

Amici submit this brief to provide the medical community perspective on the challenged provision restricting abortion enacted in 2011 by the South Dakota House Bill 1217. It is the common understanding

decision about their health. All patients, including in the reproductive health care context, should be able to trust and meaningfully engage with their medical team.

The challenged tutor provision requiring patients to submit in voluntarily to “private interview”⁴ at Pregnancy Help Center (PHC), an entity not directly involved in the provision of the patient’s care, before having an abortion re-directs attention to well-established principles of medical ethics. The provision compels patients to submit to such an interview, a tutor definition, is designed to undermine their decision to seek abortion, in the violation of the foundational principle of patient autonomy.

The challenged tutor provision (the PHC Mandate) is an improper encroachment on the patient-provider relationship. PHC (PHC) is not a medical provider. PHC is not a medical provider. PHC is not a medical provider. PHC is not a medical provider.

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their autonomy and choose whether to authorize personal medical care. Protecting informed consent, through proper and patient-centered procedure, is a time

autonomy.²⁰ Referral to other providers is made only when requested by the patient or when the physician must promote the patient's best interests.

Law should not interfere with the ability of physicians and patients to determine appropriate treatment options and communicate in the way that best serves the patient's interests. The computer, no the counseling imposed by the PHM and the creation of a barrier to informed consent does not work as intended and that patients are incapable of making decisions in consultation with their doctor regarding their own care.

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regarding their care. The PH may not be able to supplement patient medical records with information of whether the patient has been coerced, without the patient's consent or the patient independently seeking out the PH for consultation. In the extreme, a tutor power to give PH the ability to prevent patient from obtaining an abortion.³⁰ If the PH concludes that the patient has been coerced, for instance, the PH may inform the physician, effectively notifying the doctor not to perform a wanted abortion.

PH are under no legal obligation to notify physician of their decision regarding coercion. The power of PH to prevent a coerced abortion will have a chilling effect on physician due to fear of reported coercion, no matter how benevolent, emerging after the abortion is completed. Even the limited

²⁸ A O , , h 5 t n 3 l r i f i 5 3 n

See *South v. North*, 2011 WL 1111 (S.D. Ala. 2011) (report of coercion in *South* is not, in itself, a report of coercion in *South* to the procedure together).

Finally, the PHM did not improperly single out abortion and the relationship between physicians providing abortion and their patients. South v. North would not mandate third-party inquiry into whether a patient has been coerced for a *different* medical procedure. This is not an inquiry that is required from referral to counseling, like genetic counseling or substance use counseling, where a patient has either requested additional treatment of their physician's benefit or referral to another clinician to be in the patient's best interests. The effect of referral is inextricably part of medical practice, and a doctor's failure to refer

³⁴ See *infra* Part III.

³⁵ See A.O., *Comm. on Health Care for Underserved Women*, *pi io No. 8*, 13 *Obstet. & Gynecol.* 107 (2011) (encouraging the number of obstetrician-gynecologists who provide abortion care).

³⁶ See, e.g., S.C. Code Ann. § 27A-8-1 (provider required consent form for voluntary hospitalization of patient with mental illness); *id.* § 27B-8-41 (measure for delopmentally disabled patient to undergo experimental or hazardous procedure); *id.* § 27B-8-54 (rule for the treatment of individuals with mental illness participate in benefit intervention program).

³⁷ A.O., *Comm. on this and other ethics*, *pi io No. 40*, 11 (2008; reaffirmed 2020).

³⁸ A.O., *Comm. on Health Care for Underserved Women*, *pi io No. 473*, t 2 (2011; reaffirmed 2019).

³⁹ A.O., *pi io No. 8*, t e38; AMA, *Code of Medical Ethics*, Principle (2017), AMA, *Code*

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CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

Pursuant to Fed. R. App. P. 32(g)(1), the undersigned hereby certifies that this brief complies with the type-volume limitation of Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(i). Fed. R. App. P. 32(a)(7)(B)(i).

1. Excluded from the exempted portion of the brief, as provided in Fed. R. App. P. 32(f), the brief contains 5,604 words.

2. The brief has been filed electronically in accordance with Fed. R. App. P. 32(g)(1).

CIRCULAR LETTER 28A(h) CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the medicine



APPENDIX

LI OF AMICI C RIAE

1. The A

3. The **American Academy of Pediatrics** (“AAP”) is a non-profit professional organization founded in 1930. It is the largest and most influential organization of pediatricians in the United States. It represents the interests of children, adolescents, and young adults. Its membership is comprised of 67,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists, and pediatric

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11. The **American Society for Reproductive Medicine** (“ASRM”) is

multidisciplinary not-for-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the

science and practice of reproductive medicine. Its members include approximately

,000 professionals. ASRM is a 501(c)(3) organization. ASRM is a 501(c)(3) organization.

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supporting multidisciplinary commitment of staff and patients who are
focused on the science and clinical practice of planning, (2) supporting the
production of research published for impact, (3) utilizing the best of science
based on the best available evidence, and (4) utilizing the appropriate
planning evidence into practice.

1. The Society of Gynecologic Oncology ("SOG") is the premier medical
professional society for the gynecologic oncology profession and is the comprehensive
management of gynecologic cancer. With 2,500 members representing the entire
gynecologic oncology field in the United States and abroad, the SOG contributes
to the advancement of women's cancer care by encouraging research, promoting
education, raising standards of practice, and advocating for patient and member
collaborating with other domestic and international organizations. In addition,
the SOG strives to ensure care for women's cancer through its
prevention strategy for gynecologic cancer.

19. The Society of Maternal-Fetal Medicine ("SMFM"), founded in 1977, is
the medical professional society for obstetricians who specialize in
high-risk, complicated pregnancies. SMFM represents more than 5,000 members
who care for high-risk pregnant people and provide education, promote research,
and engage in dialogue to reduce disparities and optimize the health of high-risk
pregnant people and their families. SMFM and its members are dedicated to

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