



Nebraska Medical Association

Advocating for Physicians and the  
Health of all Nebraskans

NMA Members,

As you know, the U.S. Supreme Court recently overturned *Roe v. Wade*, placing reproductive health care in the hands of state legislatures. Nebraska Governor Pete Ricketts has indicated an interest in calling a special session of the Nebraska Unicameral to advance legislation further restricting abortions in our state. It is our understanding that he will work with legislative leaders to draft a bill for this purpose. If the Governor does not call a special session this summer or fall, or if the bill fails to pass in a special session, similar legislation will likely be introduced in January when at least 15 of the 49 senators will be newly elected or appointed.

This email is to inform NMA members of this developing issue, briefly describe the NMA legislative process, and invite you to participate further in this extremely important discussion. The NMA Board of Directors and staff have already heard from many of you, representing differing positions. We very much appreciate your thoughtful input, questions, and feedback.

The NMA will continue to advocate for: 1) the ability of physicians to provide care without fear of prosecution or penalty; 2) accessibility to IVF services; and 3) evidence-based treatment of life-threatening medical conditions of pregnant patients. Discussion is ongoing to determine how the NMA can best represent its members regarding other aspects of reproductive health care.

The NMA will not draft a legislative bill on this subject. We will be available to inform Senators and the Governor of our serious concerns with the abortion bill introduced last session, LB 933, and to further discuss the complexities of this topic. To that end, the NMA met recently with the Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, Senator John Arch, and with Senator Joni Albrecht, one of the sponsors of that bill. LB 933 was debated in the regular 2022 legislative session but fell 2 votes short of the 33 votes required to overcome a filibuster and pass.

When any legislative bill, such as LB 933, impacts medical care, the NMA Legislative Committee meets to fully discuss/debate the issues raised by the bill, then votes to support, oppose, or monitor that bill. The NMA then “works” the legislative bill comprehensively to advocate for physicians and the best interest of patients.

Last session, after extensive debate, the NMA Legislative Committee voted to oppose LB 933 as written. During the bill’s Unicameral hearing and floor debate the NMA actively discussed with senators the dangerous provisions, implications, and consequences of the bill.

The NMA's approach to any new abortion bill in a special session or in next year’s regular session will be similar. Once the drafted bill language is available, the NMA will convene a meeting of the Legislative Committee to seek input from members and to inform the NMA’s position on the bill. The NMA, through Board leadership, will then meet with senators to help them understand the impact of the bill language on patients, physicians, and medical care, using the guidance of membership. Bill language is

often modified during the legislative process and feedback from the NMA during these modifications is critical.

Again, once we have specific bill language from legislative leaders, NMA member engagement will inform and guide the NMA's strategy. Opportunities to engage and provide input include:

- Joining the NMA Legislative Committee, which is open to all members.
- Contacting the NMA Board of Directors by emailing Amy Reynoldson at [amyr@nebmed.org](mailto:amyr@nebmed.org).
- Attending the NMA Annual Membership Meeting on August 19 in Omaha. During the Business Meeting in the morning, members will discuss and vote on introduced resolutions to establish NMA policy, including at least one resolution on reproductive health care. To register for the Annual Membership Meeting go to <https://www.nebmed.org/annual-membership-meeting>. You must be present at the meeting to vote on resolutions, but you will have an opportunity to provide your input on each resolution via an electronic platform starting two weeks prior to the Business Meeting.

The NMA represents ALL its member physicians, and we want to hear from you. Please share your thoughts on this issue with NMA leadership by emailing [amyr@nebmed.org](mailto:amyr@nebmed.org).

Thank you for helping us advocate for the medical profession, for patients, and for the health of all Nebraskans. The NMA Board of Directors will keep you updated throughout this process. We urge all to respect the views and intentions of others as we navigate this together.

Sincerely,



David Watts, MD  
President



Daniel Rosenquist, MD  
President Elect



Michelle Walsh, MD  
Immediate Past President



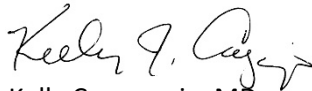
Jason Kruger, MD  
Secretary/Treasurer



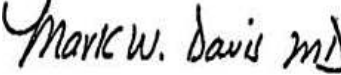
Eric Avery, MD  
LCMS At-Large Director



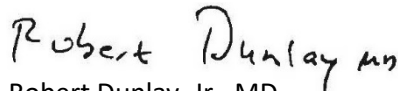
Phil Boucher, MD  
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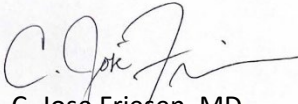
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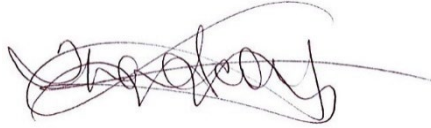
Robert Dunlay, Jr., MD  
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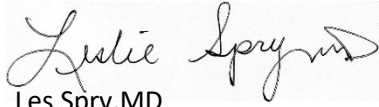
C. Jose Friesen, MD  
Speaker



Josue Gutierrez, MD  
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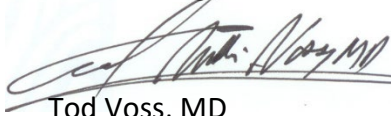
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