



March 27, 2025

**Subject Line: Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT) Letter on HB 441**

The Honorable Chuck Efstration  
Majority Leader  
Georgia House of Representatives  
338 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Carolyn Hugley  
Minority Leader  
Georgia House of Representatives.  
609 Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable James Burchett  
Majority Whip  
Georgia House of Representatives  
415 State Capitol  
Atlanta, GA 30334

The Honorable Sam Park  
Minority Whip  
Georgia House of Representatives  
609 Coverdell Legislative Office Building  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Majority Leader Efstration, Minority Leader Hugley, Majority Whip Burchett, and Minority Whip Park:

On behalf of Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT), we write to strongly oppose HB 441 due to its detrimental implications for reproductive health. As healthcare graduate students across the state of Georgia, we are aware of the health concerns faced by Georgians across the state. We urge you to vote in opposition of this bill.

Our opposition to HB 441 is grounded in four key concerns:

**1. Abortion as Essential Healthcare:** Abortion is a vital component of comprehensive healthcare, and access to it is crucial for the well-being of individuals and communities. The WHO has shown that restrictive laws do not prevent abortions but instead drive them underground, leading to unsafe procedures and poor health outcomes. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) emphasizes that abortion should be accessible without legislative interference, as it is essential for patient-centered care.

**2. Impact on IVF and Family Planning:** HB 441 could jeopardize access to in vitro fertilization (IVF), a critical option that has resulted in more than 2300 births in Georgia alone. By treating embryos as persons from fertilization, the bill could lead to legal challenges for IVF clinics, potentially limiting the availability of these services. The American Society for Reproductive Medicine has expressed strong

opposition to such measures, noting they would restrict infertile patients' rights to make decisions about their medical treatments and could lead to less effective and less safe treatments.

**3. Impact on Healthcare Providers:** HB 441 poses significant risks to healthcare providers in Georgia, particularly obstetricians and gynecologists (OBGYNs). The bill's provisions could lead to the prosecution of healthcare providers for performing even medically necessary abortions, creating a chilling effect that may cause providers to delay or withhold care. This can exacerbate existing healthcare disparities, especially in rural areas where access to healthcare is already limited. The proposed legislation could further deter physicians and other healthcare professionals, including our nurse, physician associate, and nurse practitioner colleagues, from practicing in Georgia, worsening the state's existing problem of maternal care deserts, where more than 40% of counties lack a single birth center. A recent study highlights the concerns of healthcare providers about the legal and professional risks associated with providing abortion care under restrictive laws, which can lead to burnout and reluctance to practice in areas with such restrictions.

**4. Increased Healthcare Expenditure:** Implementing stricter abortion laws, such as HB 441, can significantly increase healthcare expenditure for the state. By restricting access to timely and safe abortion services, these laws often result in delayed medical interventions, leading to more severe health complications that require costly emergency care. Research from Amnesty International has shown that this can strain the healthcare system and increase costs due to complications and travel expenses, as individuals may seek care outside the state. In a recent town hall with Senator Ossoff, women from Georgia recounted the significant delays and financial strain they faced due to Georgia's restrictive laws, which can lead to higher healthcare spending due to prolonged hospital stays and more complex treatments. Research suggests that denying women access to abortions can have long-term socioeconomic consequences, including reduced economic mobility and increased reliance on public assistance, which can further strain state resources.

In conclusion, HB 441 poses significant threats to reproductive health, individual autonomy, and family planning options. We urge policymakers to oppose HB 441, consider the long-term consequences of such legislation, and prioritize evidence-based policies that support comprehensive healthcare access and individual freedoms.

Thank you for your consideration on the issue. We look forward to working with you to promote the health of people in Georgia. If you have any questions, please contact Ramya Ginjupalli, H-STAT Board Member, at [ramya@healthstatgeorgia.org](mailto:ramya@healthstatgeorgia.org).

Sincerely,

Ramya Ginjupalli  
H-STAT Board Chair  
Health Students Taking Action Together