



AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HEMATOLOGY

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2022

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The Honorable Patty Murray
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The Honorable Ben Ray Lujan
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The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
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The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Murray, Padilla, Lujan, and Rosen:

On behalf of the American Society of Hematology (ASH), I write to you today to voice support for the *Let Doctors Provide Reproductive Health Care Act* (S.1297) and urge you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to pass this legislation that supports health care providers who offer reproductive health care services, an issue of utmost importance to the ASH membership. ASH is committed to supporting the right to maternal health care that addresses hematologic disorders, advocating for access to reproductive health services for all people, combating inequities in hematology, and supporting clinicians who serve vulnerable populations, including those at risk of maternal health conditions.

There is a close connection between hematology and maternal health, given the risks of hematologic complications of pregnancy for all women. In June 2022, the Society released a [policy statement](#) on the maternal health rights of women with hematologic conditions which outlines the many blood disorders that put pregnant women at risk of severe, even fatal, health complications. Hemorrhage and venous thromboembolism are two of the top five causes of death in pregnant women. Blood disorders, including sickle cell disease and blood cancers like leukemia and lymphoma, can pose a profound risk to maternal health. Having access to evidence-based medical information and lifesaving medical options, including the right to choose to terminate a pregnancy, is critical for the patients our members serve. In some cases, denying women their right to terminate a pregnancy puts them at risk of serious illness or death.

ASH joins many others in the physician community in supporting this important piece of legislation. Physicians – including hematologists – want to be able to provide medical consultations and appropriate medical care to pregnant women without fear of being prosecuted or being held criminally liable. Health care professionals should never face civil, professional, or criminal penalties for caring for their patients.

Thank you in advance for your steadfast leadership and support of this critical issue. If the Society can ever serve as a resource, please reach out to Katherine Stark, ASH Policy and Practice Manager, at kstark@hematology.org or 202-292-0252.

Sincerely,

Robert Brodsky, MD
President