

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Molly Markowitz. I am a pediatrician practicing in New Haven, and I represent the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (CT-AAP), which represents more than 600 pediatricians in CT.

I write in **strong opposition** to HB 5309 and I would like to emphasize the importance of protecting confidential comprehensive reproductive health care including abortion care for adolescents in CT.

Confidentiality is a cornerstone of adolescent health care and is strongly supported by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#) and the [American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists \(ACOG\)](#). [Research](#) demonstrates that adolescents are far more likely to seek timely medical care, disclose sensitive information, and follow medical guidance when they know care is confidential. [Without confidentiality protections](#), many teens delay or forgo care altogether.

Pregnancy-related care is time sensitive and early access allows for initiation of prenatal vitamins, screening for medical conditions, and counseling regarding [all available options including abortion care](#).

For some teens, particularly those experiencing family conflict, instability, or abuse, mandatory disclosure of pregnancy-related care or abortion could create significant barriers to seeking care and/or create an unsafe situation. Fear of punishment, rejection, or harm may prevent adolescents from accessing essential medical services.

Importantly, confidential care does not exclude parental involvement. As pediatricians, we encourage family communication whenever it is safe and appropriate, and many adolescents do choose to involve a trusted adult. Ensuring confidentiality guarantees that all adolescents, regardless of their family circumstances, receive timely, evidence-based medical care.

CT has been a leader in protecting confidential medical care for adolescents, and preserving access to comprehensive reproductive care including abortion care aligns with established standards of care and is critical for the health and well-being of CT adolescents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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