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Experts in High-Risk Pregnancies Call on Congress to Pass Legislation that Would Safeguard Access to Abortion Care

On September 2, 2021, the Supreme Court formally denied [a request from Texas abortion providers](#) to block a state law (SB8) that bans abortions after six weeks and allows private citizens to enforce the law by suing anyone who “aids or abets” in abortion care, including those who refer patients. The Society for Maternal-Fetal (SMFM) released the following statement in response:

“SMFM is deeply disappointed with the Supreme Court’s decision, which will allow SB8 to remain in effect in Texas. SB8 bans abortion at six weeks and will disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC); low-income people; young people; and LGBTQIA+ people.

SMFM opposes legislation and [policies that limit the ability to access abortion care](#), criminalize abortion, and mandate reporting. The Society also opposes policies that compromise the sanctity of the patient-health care provider relationship by limiting a health care provider's ability to counsel patients and provide medically appropriate treatment.

Because maternal-fetal medicine (MFM) physicians primarily provide care for high-risk pregnancies, the Society is particularly concerned about access to abortion services for this population. High-risk pregnancies are more likely to result in medical complications for the pregnant person, the fetus, or both that can lead to increased maternal and perinatal morbidity and mortality. For this population, access to abortion care can be lifesaving.

Pregnant people and their families deserve access to information and services that will optimize pregnancy outcomes, including access to abortion care. We call on Congress to defend against harmful restrictions and pass the Women’s Health Protection Act (WHPA) and the Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance (EACH) Act.

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About SMFM

The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) is a non-profit, membership organization based in Washington, DC. With more than 5,000 physicians, scientists and health professionals around the world, the Society supports the clinical practice of maternal-fetal medicine by providing education, promoting research, and engaging in advocacy to optimize the health of high-risk pregnant people and their families. SMFM hosts an annual scientific meeting in which new ideas and research related to high-risk pregnancies are unveiled and discussed. For more information, visit [SMFM.org](https://www.smfm.org).