

## **Scope of Practice Restriction**

SB 448 - Sen. G. Stubblefield

SB 448 would make it illegal for anyone who is not an OB/GYN to provide abortion services in the state of Arkansas. Laws that prohibit qualified healthcare providers from offering abortion care single out abortion for differential treatment without any medical justification. Abortion is one of the safest medical procedures available; SB 448 is entirely political in nature and is not based on scientific evidence.

**Abortion can safely and effectively be provided by physicians and advanced practice clinicians with the proper training, without OB/GYN board certification.**

- With proper training, medical professionals in other specialties have the skill and expertise to provide safe abortion care. The medical community has argued it is medically unnecessary to prohibit women from obtaining care from qualified providers.
- For example, family medicine physicians are required to train in obstetrics and routinely provide gynecological care to their patients. Many family physicians who provide prenatal care and deliver babies are well-qualified to provide abortion care, too.
- Board certification is a voluntary process that can take physicians years to complete after they have finished training. Physicians have already demonstrated their competence by obtaining a medical license.
- SB 448 provides no health benefit for Arkansans. It would prevent qualified physicians from providing safe, legal abortion services — even though abortion is firmly within their scope of practice — simply because they chose not to pursue board certification.

**Arkansas already limits who can perform an abortion in the state.**

- Current state law only allows physicians to perform abortions, though evidence shows that abortions can safely and effectively be provided by properly trained advanced practice clinicians (APCs).
- There is no medical reason to expand an already-unnecessary restriction.

**Numerous professional and health care organizations oppose medically unnecessary restrictions like SB 448.**

- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists opposes restrictions that limit abortion provision to OB/GYNs only.
- Organizations including the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Physicians Assistants, the World Health Organization, and the National Abortion Federation, among others, have confirmed that trained APCs can safely and effectively provide abortions.

- SB 448 would eliminate women's access to safe, qualified providers, threatening women's health and lives and by restricting abortion access. **Please vote no on SB 448.**