April 23, 2021

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL
The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Governor Ducey,

We are writing on behalf of the Arizona Medical Association (ArMA), the Arizona Section of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (AzACOG), the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians (AzAFP), the Arizona Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics (AzAAP), the Arizona Chapter of the American College of Physicians (ACP AZ), the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association (AOMA) and the thousands of Arizona physicians that these organizations collectively represent. We urge you to veto SB 1457, which criminalizes the termination of pregnancy based upon a genetic abnormality. If it becomes law, the bill will inflict significant harm to the physician-patient relationship and medical care in Arizona.

Our organizations stand in strong opposition to any legislation that criminalizes the practice of medicine, which SB 1457 undoubtedly does. If enacted, SB 1457 would subject physicians providing legitimate medical care to their patients to felony charges. It will likely result in patients seeking abortion care from unlicensed providers, thereby risking their health and safety. Government should not be in the business of defining appropriate medical care and should not be regulating the practice of medicine through criminal sanctions.

In addition, SB 1457 severely compromises the physician-patient relationship which is the basis for high quality medical care. The bill will discourage communication between physicians and patients by creating a fear of criminal prosecution. The physician-patient relationship is founded on trusted, open and honest communication, which best serves the health and safety of the patient and ensures that the physician is able to make the most informed medical judgment. SB 1457 undermines the foundation of the physician-patient relationship by threatening criminal consequences. This is bad public policy that does not serve the best interest of Arizonans.

The coalition of physician groups comprised of ArMA, AzAFP, AzAAP, AOMA, ACPAZ, and AzACOG urge you to reject SB 1457 as an unacceptable, unwise and dangerous intrusion into the physician-patient relationship. Please VETO SB 1457.
Sincerely,

Miriam Anand, MD
President, Arizona Medical Association

Laura Mercer, MD, FACOG
Chair, AZ-Section American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Mary Rimzsa, MD
The American Academy of Pediatrics, Arizona Chapter

Danielle Barnett-Trapp, DO
President, Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association

Priya Radhakrishnan, MD
Governor, American College of Physicians, Arizona Chapter

cc: Daniel Scarpinato, Christina Corieri