Political Influences on Residency Training

Karen George, MD, MPH
Legislative Interference with the physician patient relationship

Ob/GYN Experience
- Effect of the Dobbs Decision on training on Obstetrics and Gynecology
- Positions of ABOG and ACGME
- Effect on residency training
- What CREOG is doing to support program directors

What is happening in your PD Associations?
- Interference in the physician patient relationship
- Gun safety
- DEI Initiatives
- Vaccinations
- Transgender care
2 Impactful Judicial Decisions

September 1, 2021 SB 80, TX
Restricted abortion after 6 weeks and also allowed anyone the right to sue abortion providers or anyone who aids and abets an abortion.

June 24, 2022 Dobbs Decision U.S Constitution does not confer a right to abortion. Overruled Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood v. Casey returning to individual states the power to regulate any aspect of abortion not protected by federal law.
Scope of Effect in U.S. OB/Gyn Residency Programs

Current Commentary

Projected Implications of Overturning Roe v Wade on Abortion Training in U.S. Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency Programs

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Of 286 accredited obstetrics and gynecology residency programs with current residents, 128 (44.8%) are in states certain or likely to ban abortion if Roe v Wade is overturned.

Of 6,007 current obstetrics and gynecology residents, 2,638 (43.9%) are certain or likely to lack access to in-state abortion training.
ACGME-Ob/Gyn Program Requirements (2023) Residents MUST:

1. Have didactic activities and clinical experience in all forms of contraception.
2. Be involved in educating patients on the surgical and medical therapeutic options methods related to the provision of abortions.
3. Participate in the management of complications of abortions.
4. Residents who have a religious or moral objection may opt out and must not be required to participate in training in or performing induced abortions.
ACGME Ob/GYN Program Requirements

Programs must:

Provide **clinical experience** or access to clinical experience in the **provision of abortions as part of the planned curriculum.** If a program is in a jurisdiction where resident access to this clinical experience is unlawful, the program must provide access to this clinical experience in a different jurisdiction where it is lawful.

For **programs that must provide residents with this clinical experience in a different jurisdiction** due to induced abortion being unlawful in the jurisdiction of the program, **support must be provided for this experience by the program, in partnership with the Sponsoring Institution.**
A critical aspect of the specialty of OB GYN and patient care includes the medical knowledge, skills, and judgment relative to reproductive health rights, including access to contraception as well as to safe and legal pregnancy termination.

New Requirement of 2 months of complex family planning to sit for Qualifying Exam
Abortion Is Essential Health Care

Resources for obstetrician–gynecologists and partners to connect, engage, and advocate to defend and expand access to abortion at all levels—in their practices, their communities, and their government.

Access to the full spectrum of medical care, including abortion, is essential for people's health, safety, and well-being. Physicians
Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program in Abortion and Family Planning

Background
The Kenneth J. Ryan Residency Training Program in Abortion and Family Planning is a national program coordinated from the Bixby Center at the University of California, San Francisco. The program was founded in 1999 with the goal of formally integrating and enhancing family planning training for residents in obstetrics and gynecology. It strives to create academic settings for didactic education, clinical training, and research.

Mission
The mission of the Ryan Program is to increase and strengthen training opportunities in abortion and contraception for residents in obstetrics and gynecology and to encourage and support residents’ exposure to evidence-based clinical care and research in the field of family planning.
Ryan Program Response

Match residents from banned states to accepting programs in safe states

Expensive

Challenges

Regulatory (licensure, affiliation agreements, etc)

Residents not prepared
PACE Ideation

• ABOG / ACGME GME Summit, July, 2022

• Essentials in Abortion Education: Preliminary Discussion
  • Develop a core, comprehensive web-based curriculum including:
    • Self-directed, didactic programming
    • Hands-on skills and simulation
  • Using existing educational resources developed at UCSF
Patient-centered Abortion Care Education (PACE) Curriculum

• Module Content:
  • Module 1: General Principles of Abortion Care in Its Multiple Contexts
  • Module 2: Best Practices in Nonjudgmental, Patient-Centered Pregnancy Options and Abortion Counseling
  • Module 3: Provision of Safe, High Quality Abortion Care
  • Module 4: Patient-Centered Early Pregnancy Loss Care

• Low fidelity simulation

• Housed on IERH Site: Web-based platform
PACE
Timeline: Development, Implementation, Review

DEVELOPMENT PHASE:
1) PACE Team Build
2) PACE Curriculum
3) PACE Pre and Post-Survey
4) Messaging to Programs & Residents

LAUNCH PHASE
1) Meetings w participating Residency PDs
2) Messaging to Residents
3) Entry into IERH Platform

IMPLEMENTATION of PACE Pilot

REVIEW of Pilot

IDEATION
ABOG/ACGME/ACOG GME Summit, Chicago, IL

PACE Leadership Team Build
- ACOG Leadership Team
- IERH Team
- CREOG Region Reps
- Participating Program PDs
CREOG Council Meeting March 2023

- Convening all stakeholders
- Identified pain points
  - Patient safety
  - Costs to programs
  - Concern for legal hazards to training residents in banned states
  - Moral hazard of seeing substandard care, care delays, patients suffering, particularly in banned states
- Continue to build out toolkit of resources to programs in banned and restricted states
Pause and reflect on this…