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## Missouri State House

House Special Committee on Government Oversight 201 West Capitol Avenue Jefferson City, MO 65101

Dear Chairman Taylor, Vice Chair Eggleston, Ranking Minority Member Proudie, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to <u>HB 2810</u> which would curtail the reproductive rights of the residents of Missouri and leave some facing lifethreatening risk.

ASRM is a multidisciplinary organization of nearly 8,000 professionals dedicated to the advancement of the art, science, and practice of reproductive medicine. Distinguished members of ASRM include obstetricians and gynecologists, urologists, reproductive endocrinologists, embryologists, mental health professionals and others.

HB 2810 seeks to make the practice of providing and receiving of an abortion a felony; what the bill does not take into account is that many of the same "abortion-inducing devices and drugs" named in HB 2810 are used by reproductive endocrinologists and other physicians in the standard-practice of reproductive and gynecological care. By banning these supplies, HB 2810 is depriving Missourians of access to critical family-building health care. Furthermore, Section A (2) would make saving the life of a person with an ectopic pregnancy a felony. An ectopic pregnancy, wherein a fertilized egg implants outside the womb, is never viable. It will never develop into a baby, but, without urgent and critical intervention, it can lead to internal bleeding, ruptured Fallopian tubes, infertility, and even death for the pregnant person. In fact, the least invasive treatment for ectopic pregnancy, with the greatest success in preserving future fertility, is the use of methotrexate- one of the medications that HB 2810 seeks to prohibit. Without the kind of care that HB 2810 would ban, the lives of Missouri families would be at risk.

For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB 2810.



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Chevis Shannon, DrPH, MPH, MBA, MERC Chief Education & Science Officer For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, our Chief Advocacy and Policy officer at <a href="mailto:Stipton@asrm.org">Stipton@asrm.org</a> or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Marcelle I. Cedars, MD

President

American Society for Reproductive Medicine