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Senate Committee on Medical Affairs

3/13/24

Dear Chair Verdin and members of the Committee,

On behalf of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM), I am writing to express strong opposition to [H 4624](#) which would curtail the rights of the people of South Carolina.

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.

Multiple studies are showing a drastic exodus of qualified healthcare providers from states that restrict or criminalize their ability to practice. In criminalizing the provision of gender affirming care, H 4624 could lead to a dearth of vital healthcare providers in South Carolina, which would have a devastating impact on the health and economy of the state.

People who identify as transgender are at an increased risk for suicide, depression and anxiety symptoms. Multiple studies have found, that, along with social and familial support, access to gender-affirming care has been shown to reduce suicide ideation and attempts in transgender individuals. Transgender persons may or may not choose to alter their bodies hormonally or surgically. Hormone therapy and gender-affirming surgery, which will change a person's body to conform to their gender identity, is now seen as an effective, safe treatment and is increasingly covered by medical insurance. Research indicates

mainly positive outcomes, resulting in relief from gender dysphoria and an improved sense of well-being. Moreover, for those born with intersex characteristics, the language of this bill could have devastating effects on their treatment, and ability to live safely in South Carolina.

For these and other reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose the passage of H 4624. For more information, feel free to contact me or Sean Tipton, Chief Advocacy and Policy Officer at Stipton@asrm.org or 202-421-5112.

Sincerely,

Paula Amato, MD
President



American Society for Reproductive Medicine

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