

1 OHIO STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
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4 Resolution No. 9 – 2024

5 **Introduced by:** Medical Student Section  
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7 **Subject:** Amending OSMA Resolution 15-2023 to Allow for Broader Abortion  
8 Advocacy  
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10 **Referred to:** Resolutions Committee No. 1  
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14 **WHEREAS**, abortion is the only topic for which the OSMA has a policy  
15 concerning the personal views of its members<sup>1</sup>; and  
16

17 **WHEREAS**, in a press release concerning the decision process for OSMA’s lack  
18 of stance on Issue 1, the OSMA General Council cited clause one of Policy 15 - 2023 as  
19 a policy restriction in its inability to formally support Issue 1<sup>2</sup>; and  
20

21 **WHEREAS**, six Ohio medical professional societies, including the Academy of  
22 Medicine of Cleveland & Northern Ohio, Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine, Ohio  
23 Chapter of the American College of Physicians, Ohio Chapter of the American Academy  
24 of Pediatrics, Ohio Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists,  
25 and American Society for Reproductive Medicine, released a statement in support of  
26 Issue 1<sup>3</sup>; and  
27

28 **WHEREAS**, though the second sentence of the American Medical Association  
29 (AMA) Policy on Abortion H-5.990 is identical to the clause one of OSMA Policy 15 -  
30 2023, the AMA has *not* used its policy to restrict its advocacy on abortion, and instead  
31 has filed amicus briefs challenging state abortion laws, submitted testimony to multiple  
32 Congressional committee hearings on abortion restrictions, and sent joint letters with  
33 other medical societies on unrestricted medical abortion access to the White House,  
34 among other actions<sup>4</sup>; and therefore  
35

36 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Ohio State Medical Association amend OSMA Policy  
37 15 – 2023 – Strengthening the OSMA Stance on Abortion Policy in Ohio be amended  
38 as follows:  
39

40 **Policy 15 – 2023 – Strengthening the OSMA Stance on Abortion Policy in**  
41 **Ohio**

- 42 ~~1. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter~~  
43 ~~or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures.~~  
44 ~~12. Items 1 and 2 notwithstanding,~~ the OSMA shall take a position of opposition  
45 to any proposed Ohio legislation or rule that would:

- Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions, investigative tests, or questioning and OR education of a patient which are not consistent with the medical standard of care; or,
- Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options that are not within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of treatment options that are within the standard of care.

23. The OSMA supports an individual’s right to decide whether to have children, the number and spacing of children, as well as the right to have the information, education, and access to evidence-based reproductive health care services to make these decisions.

34. The OSMA opposes non-evidence based limitations on access to evidence-based reproductive health care services, including fertility treatments, contraception, and abortion.

45. The OSMA opposes the imposition of criminal and civil penalties or other retaliatory efforts against patients, patient advocates, physicians, other healthcare workers, and health systems for receiving, assisting in, referring patients to, or providing evidence-based reproductive health care services within the medical standard of care.

56. The OSMA collaborates with relevant stakeholders to educate legislators and amend existing state laws so that the term “fetal heartbeat” is not used to inaccurately represent physiological electrical activity.

**Fiscal Note:**           \$ (Sponsor)  
                                   \$ 50,000 (Staff)

**References:**

1. “OSMA Policy Compendium.” Ohio State Medical Association, May 2023.
2. “OSMA Council Meets—Discusses & Responds to Feedback on Election Statement.” *Ohio State Medical Association*, 25 Oct. 2023, [osma.org/aws/OSMA/pt/show\\_detail/542319?layout\\_name=layout\\_details&mode\\_l\\_name=news\\_article&tcs-token=c09d5d7389d3947411fa2a5ae17a87acf6569c0a8093552e26f78148ef8cb7a](https://osma.org/aws/OSMA/pt/show_detail/542319?layout_name=layout_details&mode_l_name=news_article&tcs-token=c09d5d7389d3947411fa2a5ae17a87acf6569c0a8093552e26f78148ef8cb7a). Accessed 30 Nov. 2023.
3. “Endorsements.” *Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights*, [ohioreprorights.org/endorsements/](https://ohioreprorights.org/endorsements/). Accessed 30 Nov. 2023.
4. “Advocacy in Action: Protecting Reproductive Health.” American Medical Association, June 7, 2023. <https://www.ama-assn.org/delivering-care/public-health/advocacy-action-protecting-reproductive-health#:~:text=The%20AMA%20supports%20patients%27%20access,and%20contraception%2C%20as%20a%20right>. Accessed 30 Nov. 2023
5. AMA Policy: Policy on Abortion H-5.990
6. AMA Policy: Expanding Support for Access to Abortion Care D-5.996

OSMA Policy:

92 **Policy 10 – 1990 – Policy on Abortion**

- 93 1. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter or  
94 influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures.  
95 2. Item 1 notwithstanding, the OSMA shall take a position of opposition to any proposed  
96 Ohio legislation or rule that would:

- 97 • Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions, investigative  
98 tests, questioning or education of a patient which are not consistent with the  
99 medical standard of care; or,  
100 • Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options that are not  
101 within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of treatment options that are  
102 within the standard of care.

103  
104 **Policy 15 – 2023 -- Strengthening the OSMA Stance on Abortion Policy in Ohio**

- 105 1. The OSMA amend OSMA Policy 10-1990- Policy on Abortion by addition and  
106 deletion as follows:

107 Policy 10 – 1990 – Policy on Abortion

108 ~~1. It is the position of the OSMA that the issue of support of or opposition~~  
109 ~~to abortion is a matter for members of the OSMA to decide individually,~~  
110 ~~based on personal values or beliefs.~~

111 12. The OSMA shall take no action which may be construed as an attempt  
112 to alter or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding  
113 abortion procedures.

114 23. Items 1 and 2 notwithstanding, the OSMA shall take a position of  
115 opposition to any proposed OSMA Ohio legislation or rule that would:

- 116 • Require or compel Ohio physicians to perform treatment actions,  
117 investigative tests, or questioning and OR education of a patient  
118 which are not consistent with the medical standard of care; or,  
119 • Require or compel Ohio physicians to discuss treatment options  
120 that are not within the standard of care and/or omit discussion of  
121 treatment options that are within the standard of care; and be it  
122 further

- 123 2. The OSMA supports an individual's right to decide whether to have children, the  
124 number and spacing of children, as well as the right to have the information,  
125 education, and access to evidence-based reproductive health care services to  
126 make these decisions.  
127 3. The OSMA opposes non-evidence based limitations on access to evidence-  
128 based reproductive health care services, including fertility treatments,  
129 contraception, and abortion.  
130 4. The OSMA opposes the imposition of criminal and civil penalties or other  
131 retaliatory efforts against patients, patient advocates, physicians, other  
132 healthcare workers, and health systems for receiving, assisting in, referring  
133 patients to, or providing evidence-based reproductive health care services within  
134 the medical standard of care.  
135 5. The OSMA collaborates with relevant stakeholders to educate legislators and  
136 amend existing state laws so that the term "fetal heartbeat" is not used to  
137 inaccurately represent physiological electrical activity.

