TO: SENATE MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
FROM: KEITH R. BRILL, MD, FACOG, FACS  
RE: OPPOSITION TO PASSAGE OF AB405  

Hello, my name is Dr. Keith Brill. I am a Board-Certified OB/GYN physician, practicing in Nevada since 1999. I was an active duty physician and officer at Nellis Air Force Base until 2003, and I have been in private practice in Southern Nevada since 2003. I am the Chair of the Nevada Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the Immediate Past President of the Clark County Medical Society. I am also a Clinical Assistant Professor of OB/GYN at both UNSOM and Touro University Nevada.

The Nevada ACOG Section is firmly opposed to AB405, as we feel this bill will do harm to the young women of Nevada and severely undermine the provider/patient relationship.

AB405 is a dangerous bill that would put the young women of Nevada in danger. As a health care provider, I see firsthand how important it is for a woman to have access to accurate information and full support in making her decisions. But this bill, which would force all young women to notify their parents prior to seeking abortion care, would impact our most vulnerable youth. Every young person should include their parents in decisions about their health care, but the reality is that not everyone can. Young women afraid of talking to their parents about a pregnancy – for whatever reason – may take matters into their own hands and turn to unsafe and unreliable options.

There are a variety of reasons why some young women cannot talk to their families about their pregnancies, **Forcing them to do so is unnecessarily delaying access to safe and legal health care and putting them in danger.**

It is because of this very real danger that leading health organizations -- including the American Medical Association, the Society for Adolescent Medicine, the American Public Health Association, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (Nevada section) and the American Academy of Pediatrics -- agree that AB 405 is bad public health policy.

Currently, abortion is treated just like any other reproductive health issue. For example, young people do not have to notify their parents to access testing for sexually transmitted infections.

AB405 would delay access to health care. In addition to notifying their parents, young women would have to wait 48 hours before obtaining care. Requiring a waiting period delays access to safe and legal health care for the women of Nevada and imposes financial and emotional hardships on young women. Women in the rural parts of our state who may be hundreds of miles from a health center would particularly be impacted by this. And while abortion is an extremely
safe procedure (more than 99% safe according to data from the CDC), it is safer the earlier it's provided. Abortions can be done very safely with minimal complications when done early in the first trimester. As a pregnancy continues, the risk of having an abortion increases for the patient, especially if the abortion needs to be delayed into the second trimester. It would be a tragedy for young women in our state, who have chosen to have an early termination of pregnancy, to have to wait until the second trimester to be able to have their procedure performed.

Bills like this force abortions later in pregnancy, for political—and not medical—reasons. The very delicate and, indeed, difficult decision for a young woman to choose to have an abortion should remain between the patient and her provider. Politics should stay out of this relationship. My patients who have chosen to have a termination of pregnancy are very grateful for the confidence and privacy that I am able to provide during this sensitive and emotional time. Having to delay for either parental notification or for possible court action would likely cause a patient to lose her trust in me as a provider. The emotional toll that will be placed on these young women, in my opinion, would be horrific, unimaginable, and unnecessary.

Further, I cannot imagine how this process would occur. The administrative burden of getting to a court, in front of a judge, with this type of sensitive subject matter and with this young of a patient, will likely become a nightmare for the citizens and the workers of our state. The amount of time that OB/GYN providers and abortion providers would need to spend to help facilitate this process will slow down our office flow, causing patients to not be seen in a timely fashion. This would be a terribly inefficient use of physician and provider time, especially as our state faces manpower shortages in OB/GYN and primary care providers.

Please protect the young women of Nevada and do not pass AB405.

Respectfully,

Keith R. Brill, MD, FACOG, FACS
Chair, Nevada Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists