

TALKING POINTS for ADVOCACY MEETINGS re: THE RIGHT TO MATERNAL HEALTH CARE

- **Introduce yourself**

Introduce yourself, explain where you are from, what you do, the kinds of patients you take care of, etc.

Thank the elected official and/or staffer for meeting with you.

Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she is familiar with hematology so you can gauge how to talk about the issues. If the staff person is not familiar with hematology, you can provide some examples of hematologic diseases/disorders and the patients you treat and major accomplishments of the field; if the staff person is familiar, you can briefly share some examples of exciting areas being explored and potential treatments and cures.

- **Indicate the issues you want to discuss:** Maternal health and hematology

I am here to discuss maternal health and hematology, and how the Supreme Court decision, *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, may very well impact and impede the quality care and treatment that is in the best interest of our patients and their disease.

I am deeply concerned with how this decision, and trigger laws and legislation either pending or passed in nearly half the nation's 50 states, threatens the doctor-patient relationship and the ability of health care professionals, including hematologists, to provide medical care and counsel to their patients according to their training and ethical obligations.

I am especially concerned about [reference laws/legislation of concern in your state].

There is an urgent need to preserve the right to full reproductive and maternal health care services for patients with hematologic disorders, and to protect the confidential relationship between the patient and their physician.

Explain the connection between hematology and maternal health care (e.g. hemorrhage and

Access to evidence-based medical information and lifesaving medical options [procedures and treatments], including termination of a pregnancy, is a maternal right.

Further, recognizing that those with cancer and other hematologic diseases and conditions may be faced with delaying pregnancy due to treatment for their disease, ASH strongly believes that no laws should be enacted that would prevent or prohibit patients' rights to retain their fertility through various fertility preservation measures, including in vitro fertilization, donation, or surrogacy services.

Share examples of clinical cases in hematology that underscore the diverse reasons that women

As a physician, I have dedicated my career and life to providing evidence-based care, delivered with quality, safety, integrity, and compassion.

Dangerous and ill-advised policies inhibit clinicians' ability to secure healthy futures for our patients and their families and irreparably compromise the patient-clinician relationship.

Health care professionals should never face civil, professional, or criminal penalties for caring for their patients.

- **Wrap up the meeting**

Summarize what you are asking for:

Highlight action needed on specific laws/legislation of concern in your state/region that interferes with [or supports] the confidential relationship between a patient and their physician and seeks to inhibit [or allows the] clinicians' ability to secure healthy futures for patients and their families.

Remind them that:

Maternal health can be adversely impacted by hematologic diseases and disorders;

Termination of a pregnancy is an important clinical consideration when the pregnant person is at risk for serious health complications or death; and

Access to evidence-based medical information and lifesaving medical options [procedures and treatments] are a maternal right.

Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she has any questions.

Invite the elected official to visit your institution. Let them know that you (and ASH) can be a resource!

Thank the person you are meeting for his/her time.