

# An Open Letter from Nearly 600 Nebraska Health Care Professionals: This November, End the Current Abortion Ban by Voting Against 434 and For 439

VOTE AGAINST 434

VOTE FOR 439

For more than a year, Nebraskans have lived under an abortion ban that has harmed patient health and forced Nebraskans to cross state lines for needed care. On Election Day – Tuesday, November 5th – Nebraska voters will decide whether we keep or end that ban. As licensed healthcare professionals who live and work in Nebraska, we ask you to vote AGAINST Initiative 434 and FOR Initiative 439. Doing so will end the current ban and ensure that families – not the government – have control over their own medical decisions.

We would all instead focus on caring for our patients instead of weighing in on public policy. However, we can no longer sit idly by while some politicians, institutions, and colleagues associated with Initiative 434 flood our TVs, communities, and social media feeds with complete lies.

The unfortunate reality is that Nebraska state senators disregarded warnings from constituents, local healthcare professionals, and trusted medical associations when they forced the current ban into law. The current ban outlaws abortion care before many threats to maternal health can be diagnosed and includes no exception for care in circumstances involving fatal congenital disorders.

Over the last year, some of us have witnessed the ban's direct consequences on the Nebraskans we serve, such as bleeding complications, infections, or delays in care, to name a few. Nebraska's rural areas have transformed into healthcare deserts. All of us have watched with fear as people in nearby states suffer under total and near-total bans, knowing that Nebraska may be next unless we come together and vote against Initiative 434 and for Initiative 439 this fall.

To be clear, Initiative 434 asks you to vote in support of the current abortion ban and protect the status quo. Initiative 434 will make the current ban permanent. As physicians, it ties our hands by continuing to deny Nebraskans access to care in many circumstances, including cases when a pregnancy will not reach term or when the mother's health is in danger. It leaves the door open for more government interference and restrictions on reproductive care, putting in vitro fertilization (IVF) at risk and banning abortion entirely, which Gov. Pillen has promised to do.

Voting against Initiative 434 and for Initiative 439 will end the current ban and give power back where it belongs – to patients, not politicians. Initiative 439 will safeguard access to abortion care until fetal viability and in circumstances in which a mother's life or health is at risk. This approach allows medical professionals to utilize their expertise and provide compassionate, standard-of-care medicine based on a patient's unique circumstances rather than having their hands tied by abortion bans that do not account for real-world situations.

Regardless of our political beliefs or backgrounds, we can all agree that health, not politics, should guide deeply personal and important medical decisions related to pregnancy and abortion. A vote for Initiative 439 will establish a state right to this essential health care. Nebraskans can restore reproductive rights to where they were for many decades under Roe v. Wade and put these decisions back where they belong: with patients and their trusted medical providers.

While most of us prefer staying out of the political fray, we have added our names to this letter because we feel this issue is crucial for the future of healthcare in our state. We believe it is our responsibility to protect our current and future patients and to inform Nebraskans about the importance of their vote this November. Simply put, Nebraskans' health and well-being depend on the outcome of this election. Initiative 434 is the first initiative on your ballot. Initiative 439 is the last question on your ballot. We hope you will join us in voting against Initiative 434 and for Initiative 439.

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