



June 24, 2022

USLCA Position Statement on Health Care Decision Making for Reproductive Care

In solidarity with other healthcare organizations and the families that our members serve, the United States Lactation Consultant Association (USLCA) believes and affirms that reproductive health care decisions should be made following the same informed, patient-centered care model that is used for infant feeding decisions.

Much like infant feeding decisions, there are numerous factors that are intensely private and unique to each individual. Just as our lactation care providers uphold the World Health Organization's *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes*, we also affirm their stance that, "Universal equitable access to the full spectrum of sexual and reproductive health services is a fundamental right and central to the wellbeing of individuals and communities (World Health Organization, 2022)."

Lactation care can be necessary during many stages of gestation and potential birthing outcomes. As lactation care providers, we are called upon to support the families in our care regardless of our personal or political views and to support these families in their specific situations. As such, echoing the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses position statement, USLCA:

"opposes legislation and policies that limit, prohibit, or puts a healthcare clinician at risk for criminal prosecution or civil litigation based on the following:

- Counseling and educating individuals on the comprehensive range of reproductive care options, treatment and/or referrals as requested by the patient or health care clinician.
- Making informed decisions based on individual choice for any reproductive healthcare need or treatment (e.g., contraception and abortion).
- Accessing comprehensive reproductive health care options for patients (e.g., abortion).
- Accessing payment options for comprehensive reproductive healthcare options for patients (e.g., abortion)." (AWHONN position statement, 2022)