

Approved 2009; Reaffirmed 2014

Abortion and Women's Reproductive Health Care Rights

On behalf of all APA members who are dedicated to the provision of the best possible mental health care to women patients, the American Psychiatric Association hereby states in its position on Abortion and a Women's Reproductive Health Care Rights that:

The American Psychiatric Association opposes all constitutional amendments, legislation, and regulations curtailing family planning and abortion services to any segment of the population;

The American Psychiatric Association reaffirms its position that abortion is a medical procedure for which physicians should respect the patient's right to freedom of choice—psychiatrists may be called on as consultants to the patient or physician in those cases in which the patient or physician requests such consultation to expand mutual appreciation of motivation and consequences of such a choice; and

The American Psychiatric Association affirms that the freedom to act to interrupt pregnancy must be considered a mental health imperative with major social and mental health implications.

This APA position statement was prepared by the APA Committee on Women (Asha Mishra, M.D. [chair]; Stacey Burpee, D.O.; Jamae Campbell, M.D.; Sharon Jacobson, M.D.; Christina Mangurian, M.D.; Judith Milner, M.D.; Sylvia Olarte, M.D.; Michele Preminger, M.D.; Claudia Reardon, M.D.; Gail Robinson, M.D.; Sudeepa Varma, M.D.; Kathy Vincent, M.D.). It was approved by the Assembly in May 2009 and by the Board of Trustees in September 2009. The chair wishes to acknowledge Nada Stotland, M.D., for her participation in the development of this position statement.