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To the Honorable Chairman Kurtz and members of the House Committee on Families, Children and Seniors:

The Michigan Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists has reviewed HB 5182 which would require physicians and health care providers to make a personal judgment about a patient's reproductive choice and mandate a domestic violence screen prior to an elective abortion.

We oppose this legislation as it forces physicians to police their patients and obstructs the physcian patient relationship. Once again it is an attempt to interfere with the usual and customary care our physicians provide on a daily basis and supersedes the guidelines about women's health care outlined by the Congress based on evidenced based medicine. As women's health care physicians our role includes screening for domestic violence; however the methodology for this screen may vary based on the location and patient population. The provider should be charged with choosing the appropriate screening not the State.

As health care providers, we are concerned our patients will not seek our care if the care they receive is based on personal opinion. The dialogue between a physician and patient as well as their care is confidential and preserved through the physician patient relationship. It should not be interrupted.

Respectfully submitted,

Jody Jones, MD, FACOG