

Abortion Law in the District of Columbia

What is the most recent abortion legislation passed in DC?

On March 23, 2020, Mayor Muriel Bowser signed into law the “Strengthening Reproductive Health Protections Act”. The legislation (1) prohibits the District government from interfering in reproductive health decisions, (2) prohibits penalties for self-managed abortions, miscarriages, or adverse pregnancy outcomes, and (3) prohibits employment discrimination against healthcare professionals (including doctors) who participate in abortion or sterilization procedures.

MSDC supported the legislation because (1) it prohibited punishments for doctors for medical treatments and (2) prohibited physicians from adverse employment outcomes if they worked in reproductive health outside of their main practice.

What is MSDC’s position on abortion laws?

The below is MSDC’s position on abortion laws from the MSDC policy manual:

5.001 Abortion

The Medical Society of the District of Columbia is opposed to any criminal sanctions regarding the performance of abortions in the District of Columbia. MSDC also believes support for or opposition to abortion is a matter for members of the Medical Society to decide individually, based on personal values or beliefs. The Medical Society of DC will take no action which may be construed as an attempt to alter or influence the personal views of individual physicians regarding abortion procedures. (BOT 10/92) (AMAPC 5.990) (Abortion Statute Repealer Amendment Act of 1992 - Bill 9-585) (Reaffirmed HOD 9/97)

How can I get more involved in MSDC if I want to influence reproductive health policy in DC?

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