

# MI NURSES Association

## Position on access to reproductive health care

Nurses are responsible for “the care, treatment, counsel, and health teaching of individuals who are experiencing changes in the normal health processes or who require assistance in the maintenance of health and the prevention or management of illness, injury, or disability.”<sup>1</sup>

Nurses and healthcare professionals are trained to respect and protect the autonomy of patients and advocate for them to make their own decisions regarding their health and health care in the context of a relationship with a qualified healthcare professional. In addition, healthcare professionals should be able to practice in the best interests of patients’ autonomy and well-being without threat of criminal prosecution.

The Michigan Nurses Association supports these values, which also apply to reproductive health care. In keeping with these values and MNA’s commitment to access to the full range of reproductive health care for everyone, MNA’s Board of Directors – elected by members around the state – has voted to:

- Oppose the reversal of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion; and
- Support legal and legislative efforts to nullify the 1931 Michigan law<sup>2</sup> making abortion a crime\*; and
- Support the Michigan Right to Reproductive Freedom ballot initiative to create a state constitutional right to reproductive freedom, defined as “the right to make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy, including but not limited to prenatal care, childbirth, postpartum care, contraception, sterilization, abortion care, miscarriage management, and infertility care.”<sup>3</sup>

Jamie Brown, RN, MNA president, issued the following statement:

*“Reproductive care is health care, plain and simple, and access to health care is a fundamental human right. The danger to people’s lives – especially people of color and those with low-incomes – is very real without full safe and legal access to care. MNA agrees with the majority of Michigan residents who believe that people should be able to decide the best course of action for their own health and well-being; health decisions should be made by patients in conjunction with their healthcare provider, not restricted by the government. In supporting reproductive rights and access to reproductive care, MNA is advocating for the health and safety of patients in all circumstances. MNA supports both Gov. Whitmer’s lawsuit before the state Supreme Court and Michigan’s Reproductive Freedom for All ballot initiative to protect the full range of reproductive health options and keep people safe.”*

<sup>1</sup>[http://www.legislature.mi.gov/\(S\(jggzqexxyhxcjpvqf0pfzfo\)\)/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-333-17201](http://www.legislature.mi.gov/(S(jggzqexxyhxcjpvqf0pfzfo))/mileg.aspx?page=getObject&objectName=mcl-333-17201)

<sup>2</sup><https://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/mcl/pdf/mcl-328-1931-III.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>[https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan\\_Right\\_to\\_Reproductive\\_Freedom\\_Initiative\\_\(2022\)](https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_Right_to_Reproductive_Freedom_Initiative_(2022))

\*As of June 29, 2022, the law is not in effect due to a court injunction.