

March 5, 2021

Mr. William Roeder, Executive Director
State Board of Medical Examiners
P.O. Box 183
Trenton, NJ 08625-0183

Dear Mr. Roeder:

I submit these comments in response to the New Jersey Board of Medical Examiners proposed amendments in **Proposal Number 2021-002**.

The New Jersey Catholic Conference strongly opposes these amendments because any attempt to advance policies that threaten the right to life is an attack on the very foundation of all other human rights.

As proposed, the Board asserts that the current health and safety regulations for abortions in New Jersey present an undue burden that limits access to these procedures. However, recent statistics on the number of abortions performed in New Jersey suggests otherwise.

According to the Guttmacher Institute, a national think tank on reproductive policy, over 48,000 abortions were performed in New Jersey in 2017. This number represents 5.6% of the abortions performed in the United States. Additionally, between 2014 and 2017, New Jersey saw a 9% increase in abortions performed, while the remainder of the United States witnessed an 8% decrease during this same time period.¹

Furthermore, unlike other states, New Jersey has no major restrictions on abortions, such as waiting periods, mandated parental notifications, or limitations on the use of public funding to subsidize these procedures.²

This data, as well as the absence of any major restrictions on abortions and the continued allocation of New Jersey tax dollars for these services, suggests that the Board's decision to amend these rules is nothing more than an arbitrary and capricious change of regulations for reasons other than medical necessity. For this reason, I am asking the State Board of Medical Examiners to not adopt the amendments proposed in PR 2021-002.

Sincerely,



James King
Executive Director

¹ Guttmacher Institute: State Facts on Abortion: <https://www.guttmacher.org/fact-sheet/state-facts-about-abortion-new-jersey>

² Ibid.