

# Abortion Later in Pregnancy

**New York State Perinatal Association  
2019 Annual Conference  
June 6, 2019**

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# Two Common Pathways

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**The patient found out new information that changed the course of the pregnancy.**

- **Poor fetal diagnosis**
- **Fetal non-viability**
- **Newly discovered threat to the health or life of the patient**
- **Pregnancy was discovered after the 1st trimester**

*Source: Katrina Kimport, UCSF <https://scholars.org/contribution/why-women-seek-abortions->*

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**The patient faced barriers to receiving care earlier**

- **Difficulty paying**
- **State restrictions**
- **Interaction with crisis pregnancy center**
- **Childcare struggles**
- **Travel**

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# 2018 Study of U.S. OBs & Gynecologists

- 3 out of 4 had a patient who wanted to end a pregnancy in the past year
- Fewer than 1 in 4 were willing and able to perform one themselves
  - 1 in 3 cited personal, religious or moral reasons for not providing abortion services
  - 19% who did not provide abortion care despite having patients who wanted it said that practical considerations -- specifically, restrictions imposed on their practice settings -- made it difficult or impossible for them to do so
  - 16% cited the attitudes of office staff in discouraging them from providing abortions

*Source: ANSIRH Research Study (Daniel Grossman; Kate Grindlay; Anna Altshuler; Jay Schulkin):*  
<https://insights.ovid.com/obstetrics-gynecology/obsqy/2019/03/000/induced-abortion-provision-among-national-sample/10/00006250>

# Patient Feedback from EWP Community

“When my rainbow baby was born with bilateral clubfeet, the nurse who didn’t know my history said to me ‘I bet people would terminate for this can you believe it? Some people shouldn’t be parents.’”

“...the abortion specialist said no it’s against the law still. That just wasn’t true. I know he lied to me but it’s probably because he was worried about it somehow affecting his career. I’d say it’s the law that made them abandon me.”

“My doctor never called. Never heard from him after the procedure. No condolences, no follow up. I still struggle with this. It makes me feel like he didn’t approve of my choice, or that he didn’t seem to see it as big of a difficult decision as I felt it was.

“Not once did anyone actively say something like ‘that was a good choice and you are a good person.’ Sometimes you need to know your doctors are more emphatically on your side.”

“My doctor provided holistic healthcare and empowered me to make the decision that was best for me. It was about ME!! Not him or his beliefs. I wish all women could access that type of care as a norm!”

*Source: Anonymous feedback from the Ending a Wanted Pregnancy Support Group*

# Open Letter from Later Abortion Patients

**We are  
later  
abortion  
patients.**

**abortionpatients.com  
#laterabortion**

“We are not monsters. We are your family, your neighbors, someone you love. We are you, just in different circumstances. Due to ignorance, many of us may not have supported later abortion access before facing a crisis ourselves, accepting restrictions on healthcare we never imagined needing.

Now we recognize that our laws may not be able to draw neat lines around each of our stories, allowing these procedures in certain, hyper-specific circumstances and not in others, because we know people will be left outside those lines.”

# Resources and Further Reading

Later Abortion Network (laterabortion.org)

Ending a Wanted Pregnancy Resources and Support: (Endingawantedpregnancy.com)

Termination of Pregnancy due to Fetal Anomaly (<https://www.topfa.org/>)

Scarlet A: The Ethics, Law, and Politics of Ordinary Abortion, Katie Watson

The New Yorker: [How Abortion Law in New York will Change and How it Won't](#); Jia Tolentino

Handout: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2dd564\\_4a16a30965614092ac359e9f4c1e4fca.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2dd564_4a16a30965614092ac359e9f4c1e4fca.pdf)



# Thank you!

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