

H.57, KNOW THE FACTS

American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN

Vermont Chapter



Vermont
Medical
Society

Please Support H.57

What H.57 does and does not do:

- **This law would neither enhance nor restrict current access to abortion in Vermont - rather, it codifies the current legal status of abortion in Vermont rather than making a policy change.**
- **H. 57 does not change by whom or when abortions will be performed, nor change the standard of care.**
- **Vermont law currently is silent on abortion and allows abortion with no restriction. Despite this, 91.7 percent of all Vermont abortions happened within the first trimester (12 weeks or less) and only 1.3 percent of Vermont abortions occurred in 2016 after 21 weeks (the latest data available).**
- **No abortion providers in Vermont perform elective abortions in the third trimester.**
- **"Late term" abortion is a social construct introduced to create an image of an elective abortion that happens closer to 8-9 months, which **does not happen** and is not a term that is used medically.**
- **This bill does not allow for the possibility of future partial birth or full birth terminations because they are specifically prohibited by the 2003 "Partial Birth Abortion Act" which is federal law. All clinics and providers must comply with all state and federal laws. H. 57 will not change those current federal laws.**
- **The Vermont Medical Society supports H. 57 because Vermont physicians believe that neither the legislature nor state law should dictate medical decision-making. Medical decisions should be made between a physician and a patient based on the highest quality, clinical evidence and aligned with a patient's goals.**