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- As with all of women's health, policy related to abortion care, including abortion later in pregnancy, must be based on medical science and facts.
- Politicians should never interfere in the patient-physician relationship.
- Sound health policy must be based on scientific facts and evidence-based medicine. The best health care is provided free from political interference in the patient-physician relationship.

3

- According to the American Pregnancy Association, abortion can cause the following responses:

- Stress
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Regret
- Anger
- Shame
- Loneliness
- Poor self-esteem



- Receiving an abortion may also trigger insomnia or other sleep disorders, eating disorders, or suicidal thoughts.
- Some women, including women who were forced or coerced to get an abortion, may be more prone to experiencing mental health complications.
- Everyone responds to such a procedure differently, and, no matter what, the potential emotions and conditions caused by an abortion should not be taken lightly.

4

Most people having a later-term abortion undergo surgical abortion. This procedure is called dilation and evacuation (D & E).

- D & E can usually be done on an outpatient basis in a clinic or hospital.
- 1) first step is to soften and dilate the cervix. (can be done 1 day before)
 - positioned on the table with feet in the stirrups, much like a pelvic exam.
 - a speculum is used to widen vaginal opening.
 - This allows cleaning the cervix and applying a local anesthetic.
- 2) insertion of a dilating stick (osmotic dilator) called laminaria into cervix.
 - This stick absorbs moisture and opens the cervix, as it swells.
 - Alternatively, another type of dilating stick called Dilapan can be inserted the same day as the surgery.
 - a drug called misoprostol (Arthrotec), can be used to help preparing the cervix.
 - Just prior to the D & E, intravenous sedation or general anesthesia may be given
 - 1st dose of antibiotic therapy to help prevent infection.
- 3) The dilating stick is removed and scrape the uterus with a sharp-tip instrument called a curette.
- 4) Vacuum suction and other surgical instruments will be used to extract the fetus and placenta

5

- Guttmacher study* focused on abortion after 20 weeks of gestation and concluded that women seeking late-term abortions were not doing so for reasons of fetal anomaly or life endangerment.
- The study further concluded that late-term abortion seekers were younger and more likely to be unemployed than those seeking earlier abortions.
- It is estimated that about 1% of all abortions in the United States are performed after 20 weeks, or approximately 10 000 to 15 000 annually.

**Foster DG, Kimport K. Who seeks abortions at or after 20 weeks? Perspect Sex Reprod Health. 2013;45(4):210-218. doi:10.1363/4521013.*

6

- The “rhetoric of medical necessity” for a late abortion is, in general, a mistaken strategy because “it is not the empirical evidence of what is or is not medically necessary which is important,” but rather “who possesses the ability to interpret necessity within key political contexts.”*
- When we see this mistaken strategy, it is possible to see the recent New York and Virginia (and other States) legislation as a signal that **politics, not science, is the most powerful influence on abortion issues and legislation.**
- *Skinner D. *The politics of medical necessity in American abortion debates. Politics Gend.* 2012;8(1):1-24.