



South Carolina
Children's Hospital
Collaborative

August 12, 2022

To: South Carolina Senate Medical Affairs Committee

R.E. S 1373

Chairman Verdin and Members of the Senate Medical Affairs Committee,

I am writing today on behalf of the South Carolina Children's Hospital Collaborative, the state children's hospital association. Our association is comprised of the four children's hospitals across the state, and we have worked together since 1994 to improve the health, well-being, and safety of children in the state.

We are writing today to share concerns and suggested amending language for S 1373, the Equal Protection at Conception Act. This legislation would impact how we provide medical care to minors who have been victims of rape, incest, sexual assault, or sex trafficking. Many of these minors are victimized by a member or an acquaintance of the family, adding further to the trauma inflicted upon them. Additionally, the legislation would potentially put premature infants at risk for harm by interfering with the state's system of perinatal regionalization, a coordinated and evidence-based system of perinatal care that routes both mother and infant to the appropriate level of care.

Because of the complexity of this legislation, we are attaching a tabular summary with key educational points and suggested amending language by section number.

We are happy to answer any questions or discuss further.

On behalf of the children we serve,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ms. Maggie Cash". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ms. Maggie Cash, Executive Director
South Carolina Children's Hospital Collaborative
Email: maggie@scchildrenshospitals.org
Cell: (843) 270-0533

Attachment: S 1373 Comments