



August 2, 2022

Dear Norton College of Medicine Students, Faculty, and Staff,

The recent Dobbs v. Jackson decision by the U.S. Supreme Court has upended the availability of reproductive services for many women across the country. The abortion ruling controversy has also hit close to home. You may have heard that Upstate-alumna Dr. Caitlin Bernard, Class of 2010, who also completed her residency at Upstate, is in the national spotlight for providing an abortion to a 10-year-old rape victim last month and is now the subject of an investigation by the Indiana attorney general. Indeed, as The New York Times pointed out in its July 28 story on Dr. Bernard's case, the overturning of Roe v Wade "has created a frightening new legal landscape for doctors." Thankfully in New York state, lawmakers have put protections in place so that abortion services and contraception remain legally available to those seeking this medical service.

We want to reiterate that the Norton College of Medicine strongly supports comprehensive reproductive health services including abortion and family planning education and training, and we will continue to include these topics as part of our medical school curriculum. We will also support our academic medical center as it continues to offer a full array of women's health services to all, understanding that obstetrics and family planning services are essential elements of equitable health care, and that we accommodate people from other states who seek this service here legally.

We will work with our affiliated associations—AAFP, ACOG and APGO—to ensure that this important aspect of medical education and training remains available to all students. Lastly, we offer our support to all members of the Upstate family and particularly Dr. Bernard who work to provide health care services to those most in need.

We appreciate the advocacy of our students, faculty, and staff on this pressing issue and are committed to further discussion. We are proud of all of you.

Sincerely,

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