



For Release:

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Association of Child Life Professionals Statement Backing the American Academy of Pediatrics Policy
Supporting Adolescents' Rights to Access Reproductive Healthcare Services

On behalf of The Association of Child Life Professionals Board of Directors

Despite the recent Supreme Court decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) remains resolute in backing the American Academy of Pediatrics' longstanding policy of supporting adolescents' right to access comprehensive, evidence-based reproductive healthcare services, including access to safe and legal pregnancy termination.

We are deeply concerned about the impact that this ruling, and the subsequent laws to follow that will force unwanted pregnancies, will have on children and adolescents' health, education, employment, and earning prospects, especially among those who are already marginalized, those living in poverty, people of color, and those who identify as nonbinary and transgender that are disproportionately affected by limited access to quality healthcare. These laws negatively impact the emotional safety of the patients and families we serve.

It is expected that child life specialists and aspiring professionals, who are addressing the emotional safety concerns of children and families in the aftermath of this ruling, may experience increased stress and hardship. ACLP is committed to developing and sharing appropriate resources for those in the child life community and supporting the advocacy efforts of the pediatric community.

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About the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP): ACLP is the leading professional association supporting child life professionals. Child life professionals advance psychosocial care and the emotional safety of children, youth, and families impacted by healthcare and significant life experiences. Founded as a nonprofit organization in 1982, ACLP fosters excellence in child life professionals through engagement in education, scientific inquiry, and innovation so that children and families of every race, identity, and community understand, navigate, and cope with serious life events. More information on ACLP can be found at [childlife.org](https://www.childlife.org).