

TALKING POINTS for ADVOCACY MEETINGS re: THE RIGHT TO MATERNAL HEALTH CARE

- **Introduce yourself**

- Introduce yourself, explain where you are from, what you do, the kinds of patients you take care of, etc.
- Thank the elected official and/or staffer for meeting with you.

- Access to evidence-based medical information and lifesaving medical options [procedures and treatments], including termination of a pregnancy, is a maternal right
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- **Support exceptions to restrictive laws that protect the life of the pregnant person.**
 - Name specific laws/legislation of concern in your state/region.
 - As a physician, I have dedicated my career and life to providing evidence-based care, delivered with quality, safety, integrity, and compassion.
 - Dangerous and ill-advised policies inhibit clinicians' ability to secure healthy futures for our patients and their families and irreparably compromise the patient-clinician relationship.
 - Health care professionals should never face civil, professional, or criminal penalties for caring for their patients.

- **Wrap up the meeting**
 - Summarize what you are asking for:
 - **Highlight action needed on specific laws/legislation of concern in your state/region that interferes with [or supports] the confidential relationship between a patient and their physician and seeks to inhibit [or allows the] clinicians' ability to secure healthy futures for patients and their families.**
 - **Remind them that:**
 - **Maternal health can be adversely impacted by hematologic diseases and disorders;**
 - **Termination of a pregnancy is an important clinical consideration when the pregnant person is at risk for serious health complications or death; and**
 - **Access to evidence-based medical information and lifesaving medical options [procedures and treatments] are a maternal right.**
 - Ask the person you are meeting with if he/she has any questions.
 - Invite the elected official to visit your institution. Let them know that you (and ASH) can be a resource!
 - Thank the person you are meeting for his/her time.