

On behalf of Global Doctors for Choice, an international network of physicians committed to improving reproductive health status around the world, we call on the government of Chile to authorize immediate therapeutic abortion for “Belen,” an 11-year old girl, pregnant as the result of rape by her stepfather. As every international medical association concurs, her wellbeing and health are the first priority in this situation. Withholding a therapeutic abortion from a child and incest victim constitutes a direct violation of her human rights to health. Furthermore, interference with physicians’ duties to provide appropriate, evidence-based medical treatment compromises their professional integrity and obligations to patients.

Preventing physicians from meeting their professional obligations to their patients ultimately threatens the quality of health care for all Chileans. We urge Chile to conform to evidence-based medical standards of care and to the human rights framework that includes the right to health in order to protect the lives and wellbeing of its female citizens, and the integrity of medical practice.

Sincerely,

Global Doctors for Choice