



May 1, 2015

Dear

Dra. Carmen Castillo Taucher, Minister of Health;
Dr Mauricio Cuello Fredes, President of the Chilean Society of Obstetrics and Gynecology;
Patricio Walker Prieto, Senate President;
Marco Antonio Núñez Lozano, President of the Chamber of Deputies;
Dr. Ramiro Molina, Main Representative of the FIGO Initiative for the Prevention of Unsafe Abortion in Chile; and
Dr. René Castro, FLASOG Southern Cone Countries Coordinator for the Committee for Sexual and Reproductive Rights

We write on behalf of Global Doctors for Choice, an international network of physicians from a range of specialties committed to improving women's reproductive health and rights.

We know that Chile finds itself about to take a crucial and correct step: to stop being one of the few countries left in the world that still completely prohibits abortion. In this sense, we would like to express our firm support for the debates that are taking place to advance the decriminalization of abortion in the country, and especially the possibility of allowing three exceptions to the ban: for the protection of the life and health of the woman, rape, and fetal malformation.

We are sure that President Bachelet's government's initiative, and the accompanying debate, will result in the end of the total prohibition of abortion in Chile

If this bill becomes a law, it would be an important step towards the protection of the health, the rights, and the reproductive autonomy of Chilean women.

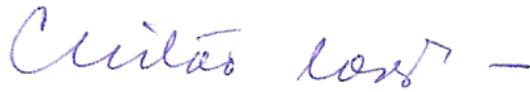
There is consensus among medical, public health and human rights groups that safe abortion is essential to ensure the best possible conditions for women's health and human rights, and there is strong evidence that the prohibition of abortion does not significantly deter the practice but rather results in women seeking clandestine and unsafe procedures.

While as a group of physicians we know that medical and ethical evidence support a broader decriminalization of abortion, we recognize that this law would represent an important step for Chile. We hope that Chile will soon join the majority of the countries in the region in complying with the legal and political commitments of the international framework of human rights, as well as meeting an important moral obligation joining the other countries in Latin America that have ended the complete ban on abortion and provide the necessary conditions to ensure access to reproductive health services for women.

Sincerely,

ANA CRISTINA GONZÁLEZ V.

Dr. Ana Cristina González Vélez
Grupo Médico por el Derecho a Decidir
Bogotá, Colombia



Dr. Cristiano Rosas
Rede Médica pelo Direito a Decidir
Sao Paulo, Brasil



Dick Van der Tak
Executive Director
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Dr. Alfonso Carrera
Grupo Médico por una Libre Elección
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Attached documents:

“Caso Karla: Afectación de la salud mental y continuación forzada del embarazo no deseado”

“Interrupción Voluntaria del Embarazo (IVE) por Causal Violencia Sexual: estudio de un caso en la ciudad de Bogotá, Colombia”

“La objeción de conciencia y la negativa a brindar atención de salud reproductiva: un informe que examina la prevalencia, las consecuencias de salud y las respuestas normativas”

“Causal salud: interrupción legal del embarazo, ética y derechos humanos”

“Interrupción del Embarazo por la Causal Violación: enfoques de salud y jurídico”