

August 2, 2017

Chilean Constitutional Tribunal
contacto@tcchile.cl

Dear Chilean Constitutional Tribunal:

We write on behalf of Global Doctors for Choice (GDC), an international network of physicians from a range of specialties committed to improving women's reproductive health and rights. GDC is committed to the provision of high-quality medical care grounded in science and to the defense of human rights. We strive to protect and expand access to comprehensive reproductive health care through advocacy for evidence-based policy and medical research.

We write to urge you to pass bill No. 9.895 - 11 and decriminalize abortion in three circumstances: 1) when the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest, 2) when the pregnancy threatens the woman's life, or 3) when the pregnancy has a fatal fetal anomaly.

The current Chilean law's prohibition of abortion under any circumstances, interferes with the practice of medicine as it does not permit abortion even when the doctor considers it necessary for the women's health and life. Doctors can find themselves in a situation where they cannot practice medicine appropriately because of fear of prosecution. Expanding access to legal abortion as Bill 9.895 - 11 would do is necessary to protect medical practice, public health, and the lives of women in Chile.

Many international committees such as the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, and the International Committee on Civil and Political Rights have said that the prohibition of abortion is a fundamental violation of women's right to life and health.

Therefore, as a global network of doctors, we urge you to support the passage of Bill No. 9.895 - 11 and thus bring Chile in line with most of the world. Expanding access to legal abortion will improve public health in Chile, will contribute to the health and wellbeing of Chilean women, and will protect the medical practice of professionals who have a duty to save women's lives.

Sincerely,

ANA CRISTINA GONZALEZ V.

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

Alfonso Carrera RPO

Dr. Alfonso Carrera
Grupo Médico por una Libre Elección, México DF



Dr. John Koku Awoonor-Williams



Global Doctors for Choice, Ghana

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Wendy Chavkin", written in a light brown or gold ink.

Dr. Wendy Chavkin
Columbia University, New York, USA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dick Van der Tak", written in a light brown or gold ink.

Dick Van der Tak
Executive Director, Global Doctors for Choice, New York, USA