



WVU PHYSICIANS OF CHARLESTON

March 7, 2006

Dear Physician:

WV Free and the Abortion Access Project are collaborating on a New Abortion Provider Training Initiative. The goal is to increase the number of physicians who are trained to provide abortion services, specifically medical abortion (non-surgical abortion using Mifepristone and Misoprostol).

I have been asked, as Chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at West Virginia University-Charleston Division, to disseminate the enclosed survey.

Enclosed is a brief survey form. We realize that your time is valuable, but it would be extremely helpful if you could take a few minutes to complete and return this questionnaire. As noted on the form, abortion training and/or training resources may be made available depending on the level of interest shown during this survey. Little data is available to make such determinations; your help in developing the data is essential for decision-making concerning training initiative development.

In early 2005, the New Abortion Provider Training Initiative (NAFTI) reported available information about the status of abortion access in West Virginia. In 2000, WV had only 3 abortion providers; 96% of WV counties had no abortion provider; and 83% of WV women lived in those counties. Many women traveled over 50 miles or more for abortion services. Although abortions are usually provided by Ob/Gyn physicians, with the introduction of Mifepristone, first trimester abortions are clearly within the scope of practice of primary care physicians and are now easier to perform in a family medicine setting. West Virginia's women would benefit if additional physicians receive training that would allow them to offer abortions as part of their practices.

If you wish to talk about this project, please call Dr. Norma L. Winter, Training Initiatives Coordinator at the office of WV FREE, (304) 342-9188 or by e-mailing winternlw@msn.com. All responses will be kept confidential. Thank you in advance for your time.

Sincerely,

Stephen H. Bush, M.D.
Associate Professor and Chairman
Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology
West Virginia University-Charleston Division

Margaret Chapman
Executive Director
WV Free

Enclosure