June 13, 2024

AWHONN’s Response to the Supreme Court Opinion on Access to Mifepristone

The Supreme Court on June 13 issued an unanimous opinion on FDA v. Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine upholding access to mifepristone. A woman who seeks to terminate a pregnancy or who has miscarried may be prescribed mifepristone. The court determined the plaintiffs did not have standing to bring the case.

Limiting access to mifepristone would have a serious impact on women’s health. An untreated miscarriage can result in infection or severe bleeding, which in turn can lead to the removal of the patient’s uterus or even death.

Because the Supreme Court made their opinion on the procedural grounds that the plaintiffs lacked standing, the Court could in the future issue an opinion limiting access to mifepristone in a case brought by a plaintiff who has standing.

AWHONN continues to oppose legislation and policies that limit a health care provider’s ability to counsel patients as to the full range of options and to provide treatment and/or referrals. Health care decisions are best made within a health care system where providers are allowed to respect the patient’s right to make their own decisions according to their personal values and should not be complicated by restrictive laws.