

MEDICAL STUDENTS FOR CHOICE

Dear Friends,

On behalf of thousands of medical students and residents, thank you for participating in the National Day of Appreciation for Abortion Providers! Your actions on March 10th are especially important at a time of decreased access to abortion services and ongoing violence against physicians.

Medical Students for Choice was created in 1993 as a response to the murder of Dr. David Gunn in Pensacola, FL and the lack of abortion training provided in medical schools and residency programs. Over the last seven years, Medical Students for Choice has expanded to include a network of over 7,000 medical students and residents who are committed to gaining abortion training. Through mentoring, externships, conferences, and lectures, our students have invaluable opportunities to meet and train with current abortion providers, and to experience first-hand the challenges and rewards of being a provider.

We've been asked many times over the past few years, "Given the murder of Dr. Barnett Slepian, will students still train to do abortions? Aren't you afraid? Don't you think this violence will turn students and residents away from providing abortion care?" And we say, "Yes, the violence is frightening, but it makes us more angry than afraid – and even more committed to ensuring that Dr. Slepian's murder was not in vain."

Your actions on March 10th not only support and encourage existing providers, they also support and encourage future providers, such as myself. On this day, we can show providers that the community supports their much-needed work. It is a day on which we create a positive climate by stopping the isolation.

Abortion providers will only be safe from violence when there are thousands of physicians willing and able to provide their patients with a full range of reproductive options, and there are thousands of people like you publicly supporting their work. Every encouraging word and positive affirmation from patients, colleagues, and community members enables us to stand behind our convictions to become future abortion providers, to not be afraid in the face of terrorist acts of violence, and to ensure women's access to safe and comprehensive health care today and in the future. Once again, thank you for your support and dedication.

Sincerely,

Jody Steinauer, MD
MSFC Founder

2041 BANCROFT WAY
SUITE 201
BERKELEY, CA 94704

PHONE

(510) 540-1195

FAX

(510) 540-1199

E-MAIL

msfc@ms4c.org

WEBSITE

<http://www.ms4c.org>