

Anonymous essay says sometimes 'choice' is a lie

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An anonymous essay published in *Annals of Internal Medicine* says that sometimes choice is just a lie. The author vividly describes caring for a pregnant woman who would be forced to carry a baby to term that would

soon be born without a skull or brain. While the baby's condition was certainly fatal, state laws prohibited caregivers from ending the pregnancy.

According to the author, this case shows how extreme politics can warp [patient care](#). The baby's diagnosis was not ambiguous. It would be born without a brain and would not survive. But because of strict anti-abortion laws in the author's state, all they could do was watch the patient leave OB triage, both pregnant and grieving, only to return to the hospital a few days later to give birth prematurely to the doomed infant.

Physicians are used to doing everything they can to save a child because that's what is expected. But, according to the author, sometimes all they can do is provide compassion.

More information: *Annals of Internal Medicine* (2019).
<http://annals.org/aim/article/doi/10.7326/M19-1005>

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