

National Society of Genetic Counselors

Task Force Charter

TITLE:	NSGC Reproductive Access, Freedom and Justice Resources Task Force
BOARD LIAISON:	Shivani Nazareth
STAFF OWNER:	Meghan Carey
BUDGET:	N/A
OBJECTIVE:	Develop recommendations for key messages, resources and long-term strategy considerations for NSGC and member advocacy around genetic counseling and reproductive justice.
DURATION:	June 2021 – October 2021

BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES:

NSGC is committed to promoting the delivery of high-value genetic counselor services based on individual needs. In doing so, NSGC supports the right of all individuals to have complete, accurate and unbiased information to make reproductive choices. With legislation passed or pending in a number of states that would ban abortion as a reproductive option based on genetic abnormalities, the ability of genetic counselors to practice.

NSGC seeks to connect our members to support and resources to advocate for the ability to serve their patients who are using information from genetic counseling and/or testing to prepare for the birth and future needs of their offspring, or to decide to end a pregnancy. NSGC firmly believes that reproductive decisions should be made in the context of unbiased and comprehensive information, and seeks to provide support to members in advocating for their ability to provide such information to patients.

In order to advance NSGC's strategic objective specific to service delivery, the Board will appoint the NSGC Reproductive Access, Freedom and Justice Resources Task Force. The task force will report to the Board. The charges of this task force are to:

Short term:

- Develop a list of resources and organizations that may enable and empower our members to address pending legislation on a local level, including recommendations around:
 - What organizations are on the ground advocating for reproductive rights?
 - Do any resources already exist?
 - If resources need to be developed, who should create those resources?
 - Where should these resources be housed for members to access?
 - Who should maintain those resources?
- Develop a recommendation for a communication strategy for informing members of available resources, and recommended actions for advocating on behalf of patients on a state/local level.

Medium term:

- Outline where NSGC has a unique voice in supporting reproductive decision-making in the context of the organization's mission and values.
- Develop recommendations for high-level strategic messages that members can utilize when discussing NSGC and the genetic counseling community's roles in advocating for reproductive justice.
- Identify other organizations that are impacted by state abortion laws, including reproductive justice organizations, healthcare provider associations, patient advocacy groups and disability rights organizations, and what, if any, partnerships NSGC and/or our members could develop with them to support a synergistic approach.
- Develop for Board approval a FAQ/points to consider document to provide the membership with broad political context around reproductive access, freedom and justice (for example, the divisiveness of these issues within and between political parties; the issues are not limited to abortion access and include eugenics, disability rights, and much more).

Longer term:

- Outline considerations and make recommendations for a high-level, long-term strategy for NSGC to address reproductive justice issues in a coordinated and calculated manner in order to protect the profession and ensure patient access to services. Propose how strategy can be revisited and refined as needed to address changes in the policy landscape.

BACKGROUND RESOURCES: NSGC Reproductive Freedom Position Statement, NSGC Disability Position Statement, NSGC Prenatal SIG resources

TASK FORCE MEMBERS:

Jen Hoskovec, Chair
Jordan Brown, Public Policy Committee Representative
Gillian Hooker, Advocacy Coordinating Committee Representative
Shelby Koenig, Prenatal SIG Representative
Caitlin Lavin
Michelle McGowan
Carla McGruder
Ashley Svenson
Bridget Winchester
Shivani Nazareth, Board liaison