Interpretation and implementation of legislative policy - including policies that are not in effect - differs across institutions and regions of the state. Differences in interpretation and implementation can increase confusion and uncertainty about laws and policies, impacting the provision of care.

OPEN led a study exploring how the political context of care relates to medical uncertainty. Researchers hosted focus groups and interviews with genetic counselors and OB/GYNs working in Ohio to understand how abortion legislation impacts their work. This is a summary of the findings.

1. **The political context of care can produce uncertainty in reproductive health care.** Political context describes how three key aspects of politics affect health care. These three components are: cultural politicization, such as widespread stigma; the legal, regulatory, and policy contexts; and the economic organization of healthcare.

2. **Interpretation and implementation of legislative policy - including policies that are not in effect - differs across institutions and regions of the state.** Differences in interpretation and implementation can increase confusion and uncertainty about laws and policies, impacting the provision of care.

3. **Uncertainty around legislative policy led to institutions and providers having stricter interpretations of what is allowed under the law.** Stricter interpretations can amplify the impact of an already restrictive context.

4. **Frequent policy changes disrupt standards of care and practices.** Restrictive legislation and policies challenge how care decisions are made, shifting care decisions from evidence-based medicine to other metrics.

5. **The political context of care has a chilling effect on health care provision, as seen through Ohio’s abortion environment.** This chilling effect includes the cumulative toll of restrictions, uncertainty caused by restrictions, and constraints on the ability to provide care.

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