There is no majority let alone filibuster-passing super majority support in the United States Senate to pass S.4132, Women’s Health Protection Act of 2022 since the national right to abortion was overturned in Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization. It is unclear how American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology’s Political Action Committee (OB-GYN PAC) donations to Senate candidates correlate to the Senate’s recent motion to cloture (or vote to end debate and proceed to a final vote) on S.4132.

OB-GYN PAC (FEC Committee ID C00364158) donations to individual Senate candidates were collected from 2015 to 2022 as of July 19, 2022 using OpenSecrets.org, a 501(c)(3) non-profit that compiles federal elections commission donation information. Voting results on “Motion to Invoke Cloture Re: Motion to Proceed to S. 4132,” (Women’s Health Protection Act of 2022) were collected from legislative records at Senate.gov. Both sets of data were then compiled and a $2 analysis was performed between Senators’ votes and presence or absence of OB-GYN PAC donations at any point in that Senator’s past four election cycles.

OB-GYN PAC donated $210,800 to Senate candidates between 2015 and 2022 among 23 Democratic, 18 Republican, and 2 Independent Senators currently in office at the time of the May vote. The PAC also donated to 18 Senate candidates who were either never elected or were no longer in office by 2022 and whose party registration includes 8 Democrats, 9 Republicans, and 1 Independent. Among Senators present at the May vote, 24 of the 49 yay votes received a combined total of $126,500 in direct donations. Nineteen of the 51 Senators who voted nay received a total of $79,800; $2 (1, N=100) = 1.402, P = 0.236 with a p < 0.05. These results were not significant to show direct Senate contributions from OB-GYN PAC had influence on codifying a right to abortion.

The OB-GYN PAC, according to ACOG’s website, does not explicitly prioritize donations to candidates who support the right to abortion. However, this policy was made prior to Dobbs v. Jackson and may draw the ire of abortion rights advocates both within and beyond ACOG’s membership. Without a national right to abortion, individual states will continue to criminalize this care which directly threatens the careers and livelihoods of ACOG members who may not tolerate the contradictions of their national governing organization. The largest limitation to this study was the observation that OB-GYN PAC contributions also go to other PACs making it difficult for ACOG members to trace the ultimate destination of this money and voting records of the receiving candidates.