

Coalition of Ob-Gyn Medical Organizations Calls for Autonomy and Privacy for Members and Their Patients

The following is a statement from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, joined by the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Urogynecologic Society, Association of Professors of Gynecologic and Obstetrics, the Council of Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine, Society for Reproductive Investigation, Society of Family Planning, Society of Gynecologic Surgeons, and Society of OB/GYN Hospitalists:

“Our organizations represent physicians who dedicate our lives to improving outcomes for people in need of obstetric and gynecologic care throughout their lifetimes. We are united in support of our members and in our opposition to legislative, regulatory, and administrative interference that disrupts the patient–physician relationship, reduces access to care, or diminishes the role of science in the delivery of evidence-based health care.

“The practice of medicine relies on access to the full body of scientific evidence. Data informs patient counseling and treatment decisions and provides a foundation for ongoing research that could lead to future innovation in the delivery of care. These actions have disabled our public health agencies, including the ob-gyns who work for them; disrupted critical research; and created barriers to equitable care for our patient populations.

“At the heart of ob-gyn care is the sanctity of the patient–physician relationship. That relationship is built on trust and privacy, and the imposition of the government in that relationship will result in adverse patient outcomes.

“Every day, across the country, ob-gyns work to provide their patients with compassionate, evidence-based care that doesn’t differentiate based on who the patient is or where they are receiving care. As they strive to do so, they face the headwinds of growing criminalization of care, threats to patient privacy and the patient–physician relationship, and increasing government cuts in funding and other barriers to scientific research and advances in the delivery of health care.

“Our organizations have serious concerns about the current environment in which our

members are living and practicing. We will do all that we can to maintain the expert authority of our members and restore the autonomy of their patients, and we urge all policy makers at all levels to step away from the exam room.”

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