February 8, 2017

Global Gag Rule, Mexico City Policy

ACOG strongly opposes the Trump Administration’s actions to reinstate and expand the global gag rule, also known as the Mexico City Policy. ACOG opposes all political interference in the patient-physician relationship. The negative impacts of the global gag rule are known. This policy places an unacceptable barrier on women’s health care providers’ ability to provide evidence based quality care and will result in women losing access to maternal, newborn, and child health care, contraception, and HIV prevention and care.

Political action to limit health care providers’ speech and medical care puts women and families at risk of serious harm. In this expanded rule, even international organizations that use their own non-U.S. funds to provide information, referrals or abortion services will lose access to all forms of federal aid for other critical non-abortion related services. Decreasing community access to services drives patients to unsafe care elsewhere. When essential reproductive health services are not available, more women die, and more families remain in extreme poverty.

ACOG urges the Trump Administration to put patients first and rescind this executive order. Our role as a leader in women’s health care is to ensure that all women everywhere have access to the best medical care available.