



THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

March 8, 2017

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) opposes the “American Health Care Act” (AHCA) released by the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Energy and Commerce. The AHCA does not meet ACOG’s principles by which we determine our positions on reform alternatives. The proposal would turn the clock back on vital coverage protections, benefits, and consumer protections under the Affordable Care Act.

ACOG is the leading authority on women’s health. For more than 65 years, the US Congress has sought out our moderate voice and our commitment to ensuring public policy based on facts, science, and evidence-based medicine. We are dedicated to ensuring the patients our members serve have access to affordable, high-quality, evidence-based care.

Our principles include ensuring that none of our patients lose coverage under a reform plan. The tax credit structure proposed in the AHCA may result in women no longer able to afford health insurance. Congress must ensure that premiums and cost-sharing requirements are affordable, including for vulnerable patients like pregnant women, children and adults with special health care needs, the elderly, and low-income individuals and families.

Our principles stress the importance of preserving the Medicaid expansion and ensuring that Medicaid continues to provide low-income women access to needed health care services. Medicaid is critical to women’s health, and is a key driver in our economy. Girls enrolled in Medicaid are more likely to attend college and become contributing members of the US workforce. Turning back the clock on the Medicaid expansion and the proposed changes to the Medicaid financing structure will severely limit our patients’ access to needed care.

ACOG’s principles insist on retention of the Prevention and Public Health Fund because of its critical role in supporting investments in public health; including immunization and the detection and prevention of infectious disease outbreaks. ACOG strongly opposes any interference with our patients’ choice of their preferred qualified health care providers, including Planned Parenthood clinics.

We urge the Committees to closely adhere to regular order in considering any proposal to reform our Nation’s health care system. Regular order must include hearings, a Congressional Budget Office (CBO) score, and direct open opportunities for input from physician and provider organizations and other health advocacy groups prior to any markups and votes.

We urge the Committees and the US Congress: Don’t turn back the clock on women’s health.