

PRESS RELEASE



The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG), District II

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Negotiated Language Makes Modest Improvements to ‘Lavern’s Law’, but Fails to Address Hostile Liability Climate

January 31, 2018— The following statement is attributable to Iffath Abbasi Hoskins, MD, FACOG, Chair of ACOG District II’s Advisory Council:

“While the agreements reached on Lavern’s law fix important flaws with the legislation, we are disappointed that policymakers did not use this opportunity to start a dialogue about the need for comprehensive liability reform. The negotiated language addresses some of the negative impacts of the legislation by limiting the breadth and scope of claims which may now be brought.

As champions of women’s health care, ob-gyns agree that a missed cancer diagnosis is extremely troubling, and yet, ob-gyns across the state are feeling a heavy weight added to their shoulders today. Passage of this legislation, without comprehensive reform to weed out frivolous lawsuits and remedy our state’s hostile liability climate, jeopardizes our ability to continue to care for our patients.

We stand by our patients each and every day to ensure they have access to comprehensive reproductive health care. We are privileged to be their trusted partners and advocates throughout many of the most important events in their lives. We want to continue to be at their side, delivering high quality care.

However, we also know the very real burden of our profession, and the ways we are forced to balance our clinical judgement with significant liability concerns. We are a high risk specialty, severely impacted by rising liability premiums because we are sued multiple times in our careers. This legislation will expand our exposure to lawsuits, and increase our premiums simply because the legislature failed to provide balance that would seek to end lawsuits without merit.

We will redouble our efforts to urge the legislature to enact comprehensive reform this session.”

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The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists, District II represents over 4,000 board certified obstetrician-gynecologists who deliver health care to New York’s women. The Albany office offers the State Legislature its resources as a nonprofit, scientific, and educational organization dedicated to accessible and quality health care for women.