



The American College of  
Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

**ACOG**  
THE AMERICAN CONGRESS  
OF OBSTETRICIANS  
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

# *Statement of Policy*

As Issued by the Executive Board of the  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

## **ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE**

Excellence in women's health care is an essential element of the long-term physical, intellectual, social and economic well-being of any society. It is a basic determinant of the health of future generations.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (the College) and the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (the Congress) are the representative organizations of physicians who are qualified specialists in providing health services unique to women. The College and the Congress call for quality health care appropriate to every woman's needs throughout her life and for assuring that a full array of clinical services be available to women without costly delays or the imposition of cultural, geographic, financial, or legal barriers.

The College and Congress membership is committed to facilitating both access to and quality of women's health care. Fellows should exercise their responsibility to improve the health status of women and their offspring both in the traditional patient-physician relationships and by working within their communities and at the state and national levels to assure access to high-quality programs meeting the health needs of all women. Fellows must not discriminate against patients based on race, color, national origin, disability, age, religion, marital status, sexual orientation, perceived gender, or any other basis.

In addition, it is critical that all Americans be provided with adequate and affordable health coverage. There remains a considerable and increasing portion of the American population that does not have health insurance coverage. As a result, those individuals often defer obtaining preventive and medical services, jeopardizing the health and well-being of themselves and their families. The College and the Congress support universal coverage that is designed to improve the individual and collective health of society. Expanding health coverage to all Americans must become a high priority.

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