



October 23, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing the nation's leading professional medical organizations in the field of obstetrics and gynecology, we write today regarding the recent Executive Order on Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping, signed September 22, 2020.ⁱ We have serious concerns about the negative impacts this Executive Order will have on efforts to combat systemic racism and advance a more equitable society. We therefore call on you with utmost urgency to immediately rescind the Executive Order.

As our nation confronts systemic racism and the consequences of persistent inequities and disparate outcomes in health care, our organizations have committed to changing the culture of medicine, eliminating racism and racial inequities that lead to disparate health outcomes, and promoting equity in women's health and health care.ⁱⁱ This commitment requires an honest evaluation of our own biases, a dedication to dismantling systemic and institutional racism that is pervasive in our country's health care institutions, and an obligation to embracing the conduct of research, publications, presentations, and other types of programming that incorporate an anti-racism framework.

This work is not theoretical, and political efforts to interfere with its progress are unacceptable. The United States is in the midst of a COVID-19 global pandemic that has killed more than 210,000 people. Communities of color, including Black, Latinx, and American Indian/Alaska Native populations have faced disproportionately higher rates of COVID-19 infection, hospitalization, and death.ⁱⁱⁱ The United States is also experiencing a maternal mortality crisis and is the only developed country with a rising maternal death rate.^{iv} Black and American Indian/Alaska Native women are roughly three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women.^v Those inequities risk exacerbation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, Black and Latinx populations experience higher rates of mortality from cervical cancer than white women.^{vi}

We are very concerned that the Executive Order will have a chilling effect on critical efforts to advance racial equity. As our respective organizations do the important work to combat racism and racial bias in medicine, we call on the Administration to support, rather than suppress, these efforts. We implore you to immediately rescind the Executive Order on Combatting Race and Sex Stereotyping.

Sincerely,

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists

American Gynecological and Obstetrical Society
American Medical Women's Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
American Urogynecologic Society
Council of University Chairs of Obstetrics and Gynecology
Council on Resident Education in Obstetrics and Gynecology
Infectious Diseases Society for Obstetrics and Gynecology
National Medical Association
North American Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology
Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology
Society of Family Planning
Society of Gynecologic Oncology
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society of OB/GYN Hospitalists
Society for Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility
Womxns Health Collaborative

ⁱ United States, Executive Office of the President [Donald Trump]. Executive order 13950: Combating Race and Sex Stereotyping. 22 Sept. 2020. Federal Register, vol. 85, no. 188, 28 Sept. 2020, pp. 60683-89, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-09-28/pdf/2020-21534.pdf>.

ⁱⁱ American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, et. al. "Joint Statement: Collective Action Addressing Racism." August 27, 2020. Available at <https://www.acog.org/news/news-articles/2020/08/joint-statement-obstetrics-and-gynecology-collective-action-addressing-racism>

ⁱⁱⁱ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). Hospitalization and Death by Race/Ethnicity. Updated Aug. 18, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/covid-data/investigations-discovery/hospitalization-death-by-race-ethnicity.html>.

^{iv} Lu MC. Reducing Maternal Mortality in the United States. JAMA. 2018 Sep 25;320(12):1237-1238. doi: 10.1001/jama.2018.11652. PMID: 30208484.

^v Petersen EE, Davis NL, Goodman D, et al. Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Pregnancy-Related Deaths — United States, 2007–2016. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:762–765. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6835a3>

^{vi} Howlader N, Noone AM, Krapcho M, Miller D, Brest A, Yu M, Ruhl J, Tatalovich Z, Mariotto A, Lewis DR, Chen HS, Feuer EJ, Cronin KA (eds). SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2016, National Cancer Institute. Bethesda, MD, https://seer.cancer.gov/csr/1975_2016/, based on November 2018 SEER data submission, posted to the SEER web site, April 2019.