



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 Protecting Vulnerable Newborn and Infant Children, signed September 25, 2020.<sup>i</sup> This Executive Order seeks to advance a false narrative for political gain and we have serious concerns about the negative impacts it may have on the women and families for whom we care. We therefore strongly oppose the Executive Order and call for its immediate rescindment.

Policy related to reproductive health care must be based on medical science and facts. The government can serve a valuable role in creating health policy when its purpose is to improve patient health and advance medical and scientific progress.<sup>ii</sup> Instead, this Executive Order attempts to inject politicians into the patient-physician relationship and uses harmful rhetoric that serves to undermine the public trust in physicians, stigmatize necessary health care for women, and heartlessly disregards the tragedies and difficult decisions women and their families face.

Compassionate, evidence-based care provided by obstetrician-gynecologists and other women's health medical professionals should never be subject to politicians' personal ideologies, especially when they are not based in science. The Order's attempt at intimidation of physicians, patients, and families is concerning. We ask that you immediately rescind Executive Order 13952.

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

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<sup>i</sup> United States, Executive Office of the President [Donald Trump]. Executive order 13952: Protecting Vulnerable Newborn and Infant Children. 25 Sept. 2020. Federal Register, vol. 85, no. 192, 2 Oct. 2020, pp. 62187-89, <https://www.govinfo.gov/content/pkg/FR-2020-10-02/pdf/2020-21960.pdf>.

<sup>ii</sup> Legislative Interference with Patient Care, Medical Decisions, and the Patient-Physician Relationship. Statement of Policy. American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Retrieved from <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2019/legislative-interference-with-patient-care-medical-decisions-and-the-patient-physician-relationship> (Reaffirmed July 2019).