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February 6, 2017

Dear Senator:

The Pennsylvania Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologist (ACOG) represents more than 1300 physicians and partners in women's health in the Commonwealth. We would like to express serious concern regarding SB 3.

We strongly oppose governmental interference in the doctor-patient relationship and respectfully urge you to do the same.

Few relationships exist as personal as those between women and their OBGYNs. The relationship is compromised when a trusted physician is faced with the ethical decision to appropriately provide unbiased, scientifically-based care to a patient, which may conflict with state law.

Difficult medical decisions, especially those involving the complex medical circumstances that accompany the issues discussed in SB 3, should be left to women and their expert medical providers, not governed.

Efforts to legislate and criminalize the practice of medicine sets a dangerous precedent. We urge you to join us in protecting the sanctity of the patient-physician relationship.

Our PAACOG leadership would be happy to further discuss concerns and answer any questions you may have regarding SB 3.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lynne M. Coslett-Charlton, MD, FACOG  
Chair

Pennsylvania Section, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Stephen J. Smith, MD  
Legislative Chair

Pennsylvania Section, American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists