



Office of the President
Gerald F. Joseph, Jr., MD, FACOG
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July 16, 2009

The Honorable George Miller
Chairman
Education & Labor Committee

The Honorable Charles Rangel
Chairman
Ways & Means Committee

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Chairman
Energy & Commerce Committee

Dear Chairmen,

As President of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), I'm pleased to provide ACOG's endorsement of H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009.

Enactment of this bill would be a historic accomplishment, setting in place a mechanism and practical plan for solving the health care crisis that is crippling our Nation.

Through ACOG's Health Care for Women, Health Care for All Campaign, we have identified the critical elements of women's health that must be an integral part of any health reform plan. In fact, no health reform proposal is complete without this important piece of the puzzle. Our critical elements include:

- Maternity coverage for every woman in every plan,
- Medical home for women,
- Ending gender rating and pre-existing condition exclusions, and
- Medical liability reform.

H.R. 3200 encompasses the first three of these critical elements, and a number of other very important policies:

- Repeal of the SGR
- Elimination of the cliff
- Voluntary participation in the public program
- No ultrasound cuts
- Incentives for ob-gyn participation in the Medicare and public programs.

As we work with you and Senate leaders to improve and pass this bill, we urge you to work with us to ensure the highest levels of patient safety in maternity care, by all providers and in all settings, and to address defensive medicine which drives up health care costs. The President and Democratic leaders in Congress agree that medical liability reform must be an integral part of meaningful health reform. ACOG urges you to use this historic opportunity to test alternative approaches to our broken liability system.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment in this enormous, and enormously important, undertaking.

Sincerely,

Gerald F. Joseph, Jr., MD, FACOG
President