

Sept 25, 2008  
RE: RIN 0991-AB48

Dear ACOG Key Contact Representative,

I am truly amazed at ACOG's stance on RIN 0991-AB48. The primary reason that ACOG is opposed to this regulation is that ACOG views physicians rights of conscience as being a major obstacle in the provision of abortion services not only in this country but worldwide.

ACOG should focus its agenda as being a professional society representing its own membership, rather than a pro-abortion activist organization. I am frankly appalled that ACOG would support physicians being forced to violate their own rights of conscience as it pertains to the provision of women's healthcare.

History will prove that the provision of abortion services is every bit as harmful and wrong for women, children and families as slavery was in the past and human trafficking is at present.

It saddens me tremendously that my own professional society would fail to support its members in such unscrupulous fashion.

Allan T. Sawyer, MD, MS, FACOG

Sept 25, 2008

Brenda Destro  
Office of Public Health and Science  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, SW, Room 728  
Washington, DC 20201

RE: RIN 0991-AB48

Dear Ms. Destro:

As a practicing obstetrician-gynecologist, I applaud the efforts of HHS to protect physician rights of conscience. If physicians cannot practice medicine guided by their own moral and ethical conscience, or are forced to violate their moral and ethical conscience by the federal government or our own specialist societies, then our patients will be the ones in the most jeopardy. The very moral fiber of the history of medicine will be cut if physician rights of conscience are not supported.

I am particularly bothered by The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists attempt to distort RIN 0991-AB48 to its members, of which I am one. ACOG, as you know, is a pro-abortion organization who views physician rights of conscience as being a major obstacle in the provision of abortion services, not only in this country, but worldwide.

As a board certified obstetrician gynecologist, I completely support RIN 0991-AB48. Thank you for your efforts to protect patients and physicians.

Sincerely,

Allan T. Sawyer, MD, MS, FACOG

██████████ MD, FACOG  
Executive Vice President  
ACOG  
409 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2188

Dear ██████████

I am concerned about ACOG's new restructuring of a "business league" or "trade association." It concerns me because it seems that as of late ACOG is more interested in promoting abortion services than the remainder of our specialty interests. As you know, I resigned my ACOG committee chairmanship this past year in protest of ACOG's Bioethics Committee opinion #385. Simultaneously I accepted a position on the Executive Committee of AAPLOG.

There is a significant portion of the membership of ACOG that does not support abortion on demand. As long as research evaluating the true impact of abortion related complications is underfunded and suppressed by editorial committees, we will not have a clear picture of the long term implications of abortion on women. No one questions the adverse impact on the children whose lives abortion destroys.

ACOG needs to view itself as primarily the specialty society representing obstetricians and gynecologists, and resist the temptation to misuse its political influence in the support of a political agenda that many of its members do not support. Personally I do not want any of my ACOG dues to be spent in support of abortion legislation.

Sincerely,

Allan

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Allan, I understand your concern and appreciate your views. The reason for the C 6 has nothing to do with the College position on choice. In fact, if this were the only reason, there would be no reason. What has transpired with the new regulations at IRS is what has motivated this change. First, C 3's as ACOG is now are prohibited from grievance activities. This is a major concern as all of our surveys indicate that this is one of the most important activities we do for our Fellows. Likewise, the new regulations prohibit a C 3 from being involved in economic activities. This would mean we could no longer lobby or work to improve payments, to deal with the RUC and the RVBS or any other payment issues. Another prohibition would be professional liability activities if it dealt with premiums or payments. There were other issues as well, but according to our outside attorneys these are the major issues. With a C 6, yes we will be able to engage in more legislative activity, especially at the state level. Our concern is that we will never get Federal Tort reform so we must now move to individual states where we have had some success. I am glad to see that you are on AAPLOG. I am happy to work with you and them on any issue. As I have stated in public many times, I believe it is critical that ACOG support those who oppose abortion as well as those who support it. That is what choice means. Abortion is one of the most divisive issues that our nation and our specialty faces and unfortunately, our specialty is at the heart of the matter. In regards to # 385, it is only an opinion from a committee and has not and will not be approved as a college policy. The Executive Board has made that very clear. Again good to hear from you, contact me any time.

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