

First in Women's Health

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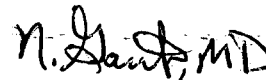
Michael O. Leavitt
Secretary
The US Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

I am responding to your letter addressed to me asking about the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology's stand with respect to a physician's choice "to violate their conscience by referring patients for abortions or taking other objectionable actions, or risk losing their board certification." I can only say that I do not know where you came up with any suggestion, much less documentation, that the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology has ever asked anyone to violate their own ethical or moral standards.

Please be assured that the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology has taken no stand, pro or con, against individual physicians who choose to or choose not to perform abortions or to refer patients to abortion providers. Moreover, such an issue is not a consideration in the applications or in the examinations administered by the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology in any of its certification or in its Maintenance of Certification requirements or examinations.

Best Wishes,



Norman F. Gant, M.D.
Executive Director

NFG/kd