

AAPLOG Position on Proposed RRC Changes

As you may know the Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics and Gynecology has recommended all OB/GYN Residency training programs be mandated to provide elective abortion training to all residents. (See Fig. 1) Obviously the American Association of Pro Life Obstetricians would oppose these mandates, and have submitted the following position paper to the RRC:

To: Residency Review Committee for Obstetrics & Gynecology

From: Board of Directors
AAPLOG

Re: Special Requirements for Residency Training in Obstetrics & Gynecology.

"The requirement in this section which relates to the performance of induced abortion is in direct conflict with the moral and professional character of a number of hospitals with residency education programs in obstetrics and gynecology. We suggest that the requirement is unnecessary for the following reasons:

The surgical techniques utilized in pregnancy terminations are for the most part similar whether the fetus is living or dead. Dilatation and evacuation of the uterus for treatment of incomplete and missed abortions, and prostaglandin induction of labor for fetal deaths in the 2nd trimester of pregnancy are procedures learned by all residents and for which there are no

Curriculum A. General 1. Organization and Structure

...j. "The program must provide a structured didactic and clinical training experience in the full range of family planning techniques including contraception, sterilization and abortion. This must include experience in management of complications as well as training in the performance of these procedures. Experience with induced abortion must be a part of residency training, except for residents with moral or religious objections. This education can be provided on or off campus."

Fig. 1

moral or religious objects. Residents learn not only to perform these procedures but also to treat complications when they occur as they do whether the fetus is alive or dead prior to when the procedure is performed. In other words, it is unnecessary to perform induced abortions to learn these techniques or how to care for the complications.

The special Requirements include an exemption from performing induced abortions for individuals who have moral or religious objections. In other words, the Residency Review Committee recognizes that an individual can become eligible for Board certification without having performed induced abortions. It follows then that a training program need not offer experience in performing induced abortions either on or off

campus in order to properly prepare a candidate for certification. All residency education programs should clearly publicize the range of experience that is offered so that the resident candidates who want training in induced abortion would know in which programs such experience is or is not available.

Allowing an exemption from the requirement for training in induced abortion or simply allowing experience in induced abortion to be optional will not decrease the quality of residency education. Residents will learn the necessary surgical and medical therapies to terminate pregnancies and treat complications of abortions whether or not induced abortions on living fetuses are performed.

Adopted May 11, 1994
Orlando, Fla