

As organizations representing over 25,000 medical professionals, we would like to correct the errors and assumptions of the recently released joint statement from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and Physicians for Reproductive Health (PRH).

We state unequivocally that there is a difference between elective abortion - a procedure done to ensure that a baby is born dead -and the separation of the mother and the baby in order to save the life of the mother. ACOG leadership is deceptively hiding behind the confusion about the meaning of the word "abortion" to imply that such treatments to save the life of the mother are the same as elective abortions.

A separation procedure to treat maternal pathology INTENDS to save the lives of both the mother and her baby if possible. In contrast, an abortion, which the general public understands to mean "elective abortion", INTENDS to deliver a dead baby. That is why a baby born ALIVE after an elective abortion is called a "Failed Abortion". The separation of the baby from the mother did not fail. What failed to occur is that her baby "failed" to be killed.

We are glad that ACOG and PRH leadership recognize what all pro-life obstetricians know - that sometimes treatments which result in the separation of the mother and the baby are necessary to save the mother's life. However, ACOG and PRH leadership disingenuously imply in their statement that these life saving procedures are the same as elective abortions.

The ACOG leaders' advocacy of elective abortion is out of step with the 85% of OB/GYN's who do not perform abortions. Their extreme advocacy for elective abortion through birth does not represent the majority opinion of either ACOG membership, or the majority opinion of all the rest of the obstetricians and gynecologists in this country.

Respectfully,

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