

July 28, 2010

Dear Member of Congress:

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representing 94 percent of all U.S. board certified ob-gyns, is committed to ensuring the highest levels of women's health care, through education, clinical practice guidelines, and legislative advocacy.

It's my pleasure to provide you with ACOG's Making Obstetrics and Maternity Safer (MOMS) Initiative, a comprehensive legislative proposal to reduce maternal and infant mortality, to increase our understanding of the science and physiology related to these issues, and to explore innovations in creative delivery systems.

We also regularly update our clinical practice guidance to reflect the most current scientific information, giving ob-gyns the very best data and expert opinion to help guide their practice. ACOG issued this week Practice Bulletin #115, Vaginal Birth after Previous Cesarean Delivery. This Bulletin makes clear that attempting a vaginal birth after cesarean (VBAC) is a safe and appropriate choice for most women who have had a prior cesarean delivery, including for some women who have had two previous cesareans. It's our hope that this Bulletin will increase safe delivery options for many women.

Also attached, you'll find testimony presented to the House Energy and Commerce Committee Subcommittee on Health, delivered by ACOG Vice President for Practice Activities Hal C. Lawrence, MD, which provides you a wealth of information on the medical and scientific issues related to prematurity, infant mortality, and delivery methods.

I hope this information will be very helpful to you as we work together to ensure that every pregnancy and delivery is a safe and joyous occasion. ACOG looks forward to working closely with you and I invite you to contact me or Lucia DiVenere, Senior Director for Government Affairs, for more information at any time.

Sincerely,



Richard N. Waldman, MD, FACOG  
President