



The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Texas-ACOG Opposes SB 735 by Senator Paxton

ACOG's intent is not to interfere with midwives caring for pregnant women and infants, but to ensure that any midwifery-related policy proposal assures safe midwifery care for both the mother and baby.

Texas-ACOG opposes SB 735 for the following reasons:

- This bill would compromise patient safety.
- Given the high maternal morbidity and mortality rate in Texas, we feel this bill could increase patient complications and potential deaths.
- This bill could further increase health related risks in our patients by delaying needed care and access to blood products. Blood products may only be ordered by another provider, such as a physician.
- ACOG believes that the definition of "drugs" is very broad in the bill.
- All drugs that are administered during labor are considered prescription drugs.
- This bill allows diagnosis and treatment of a patient. This is the practice of medicine.
- ACOG believes the best healthcare teams will always be a collaborative physician-led team due to the years of training and education.
- In situations where medications are used, those patients are either at high risk for hemorrhage or already experiencing hemorrhage or other complications, to which physician consultation is best for patient care and safety.
- The authorization and use of medicines would be more appropriate to accomplish through the rule-making process than a standalone bill.

ACOG cannot support legislation that could compromise patient safety, and this is what SB 735 will ultimately do. For the reasons stated above, the Texas District of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (Texas ACOG) opposes SB 735.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists – District XI (Texas) by Dr. Tony Dunn, MD, ACOG