



## Office of the President

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48 Hyde Park Circle  
Denver, Colorado 80209

Dear Secretary Leavitt:

On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), I am writing to express our absolute objection to a draft proposed regulation that would severely restrict women's access to birth control, among a number of other serious issues. We strongly urge you to abandon any further efforts to move forward with this proposal.

While purporting to inform Department of Health and Human Services funding recipients of their federal legal obligations, the proposed regulation redefines abortion in a way that threatens women's access to basic contraceptive health care services.

HHS asserts a definition of abortion as "any of the various procedures – including the prescription, dispensing, and administration of any drug or the performance of any procedure or any other action – that results in the termination of the life of a human being in utero between conception and natural birth, whether before or after implantation." This definition is inconsistent with all established medical authorities and is so broad and inexact that it could include even basic widely used methods of birth control, including oral contraception and intrauterine devices (IUDs).

This and many other aspects of the proposed regulation would severely limit women's access to safe and legal methods of preventing unwanted pregnancies and undercut our Nation's commitment to healthy births and family planning. Contraception is a necessity for women during three decades of their life span, and medical contraception is used by 89% of the 42 million women who seek to avoid pregnancy.

Science and the American people are not well-served when the government trumps basic health care needs with ideology and politics. This egregious regulation is an affront to health professionals and to American women. We urge the Administration to stop all further work on this very ill-advised effort.

Sincerely,

Douglas H. Kirkpatrick, MD, FACOG  
President