Whereas, Current Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) guidelines state that accredited obstetrics and gynecology (OB-GYN) residencies are required to provide access to abortion training in their curriculum, which the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recognizes is a necessary component of women’s health care; and

Whereas, ACGME requires that all programs be held to the same high standards; however, ACOG reports that programs differ widely in scope and types of training offered; and

Whereas, There are many institutional barriers to medical education surrounding abortion, including legislative, societal, and monetary, all of which contribute to the limited access to family planning training opportunities; and

Whereas, Many institutions do not provide equal access to abortion training during OB-GYN residency training, only 54 percent of OB-GYN residents from 161 programs noted routine integrated abortion training, and 16 percent reported that elective training was not available; and

Whereas, In a 10-year study of Ryan Residency programs—which offer enhanced, integrated family planning education in OB-GYN residencies—there was a demonstrated 97 percent improved competency in abortion and contraceptive care, but they only make up 32 percent of all US OB-GYN residency programs; and

Whereas, Offering comprehensive, integrated training in abortion and family planning has shown to improve residents’ competency and proficiency in abortion, counseling, miscarriage management, and other reproductive care; and

Whereas, ACOG supports expansion of abortion training, and the improvement and integration of abortion education throughout all levels of medical education; and

Whereas, AMA policy supports the opportunity for residents to learn or opt-out of pregnancy termination procedures and opposes program measures aimed to interfere with or restrict the availability of this training; and

Whereas, AMA policy maintains that basic skills and competencies be determined solely by the medical profession; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That our American Medical Association encourage the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education to better enforce compliance with the standardization of abortion training opportunities as per the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ recommendations. (Directive to Take Action)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 09/29/17

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

Medical Training and Termination of Pregnancy H-295.923
The AMA supports the education of medical students, residents and young physicians about the need for physicians who provide termination of pregnancy services, the medical and public health importance of access to safe termination of pregnancy, and the medical, ethical, legal and psychological principles associated with termination of pregnancy, although observation of, attendance at, or any direct or indirect participation in an abortion should not be required. Further, the AMA supports the opportunity for residents to learn procedures for termination of pregnancy and opposes efforts to interfere with or restrict the availability of this training.

Residency Program Responsibility for Resident Education H-295.915
The AMA affirms that the basic skills and competencies for the practice of medicine and its specialties must be determined solely by the medical profession.
Citation: Res. 313, A-96; Reaffirmed: CME Rep. 2, A-06; Reaffirmed: CME Rep. 01, A-16;

1 Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education. “ACGME program requirements for graduate medical education in obstetrics and gynecology.” (2013).