



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

American Academy
of Pediatrics



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ACOG

The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists



AMERICAN
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America's Frontline Physicians Oppose the Administration's Decision to Jeopardize Access to Women's Preventive Care

Washington (November 8, 2018) – *In response to the release of the Trump administration's final rules that will limit contraception access the American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, and American Psychiatric Association, collectively representing more than 423,000 of America's frontline physicians, issued this statement:*

“Our organizations, which represent more than 423,000 physicians and medical students, stand together in opposition to the administration's final rules, the Religious Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act and the Moral Exemptions and Accommodations for Coverage of Certain Preventive Services Under the Affordable Care Act. By undercutting women's access to contraception, a key preventive service, at no out-of-pocket cost in private insurance plans, the final rules conflict with our firmly held belief that no woman should lose the coverage she has today.

“Efforts to decrease access to contraceptive services will have damaging effects on public health. The ability to prevent or plan the timing of a pregnancy directly contributes to women's overall health and personal achievements. We know that when women have unintended pregnancies, they are more likely to delay prenatal care, resulting in a greater risk of complications during and following pregnancy for both the woman and her child. The final rules reject these facts and the corresponding recommendations of the medical community, jeopardizing many women's ability to maintain a vital component of their health care.

“No-copay coverage of contraception has an undeniable positive effect on the health of women and families everywhere, as well as the economic health of the nation by saving money for taxpayers and state and federal governments. In 2010, unintended pregnancies cost approximately \$21 billion in government expenditures. Likewise, before the ACA women were spending between 30 percent and 44 percent of their total out-of-pocket health costs just on birth control. After the ACA, women saved approximately \$1.4 billion in out-of-pocket costs for contraception in one year.

“These rules create a dangerous new standard for employers to deny their employees coverage based

on their own moral objections. This interferes in the personal health care decisions of our patients, and inappropriately inserts a patient's employer into the patient-physician relationship. In addition, these rules open the door to moral exemptions for other essential physician-recommended preventive services, such as immunizations. We urge the administration to immediately withdraw these rules and instead focus on policies to expand access to evidence-based health care for all Americans."

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About American Academy of Family Physicians

Founded in 1947, the American Academy of Family Physicians represents 129,000 physicians and medical students nationwide, and it is the only medical society devoted solely to primary care. Family physicians provide comprehensive, evidence-based, and cost-effective care dedicated to improving the health of patients, families and communities. To learn more about the AAFP and family medicine, visit www.aafp.org/media. Follow us on [Twitter](#), and like us on [Facebook](#). For information about health care, health conditions and wellness, visit the AAFP's award-winning consumer website, www.familydoctor.org.

About the American Academy of Pediatrics

The American Academy of Pediatrics is an organization of 66,000 primary care pediatricians, pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of infants, children, adolescents and young adults. For more information, visit www.aap.org and follow us on Twitter [@AmerAcadPeds](#).

About the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), is the nation's leading group of physicians providing health care for women. As a private, voluntary, nonprofit membership organization of more than 58,000 members, ACOG strongly advocates for quality health care for women, maintains the highest standards of clinical practice and continuing education of its members, promotes patient education, and increases awareness among its members and the public of the changing issues facing women's health care. www.acog.org

About the American College of Physicians

The American College of Physicians is the largest medical specialty organization in the United States with members in more than 145 countries worldwide. ACP membership includes 154,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness. Follow ACP on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

About the American Psychiatric Association

The American Psychiatric Association, founded in 1844, is the oldest medical association in the country. The APA is also the largest psychiatric association in the world with more than 37,800 physician members specializing in the diagnosis, treatment, prevention and research of mental illnesses. APA's vision is to ensure access to quality psychiatric diagnosis and treatment. For more information, please visit www.psychiatry.org.