

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists Kansas Section

Testimony Regarding HB 2324 – Stillbirth Research and Dignity Act

Position: Neutral

Stillbirth is a devastating and unfortunate occurrence which affects parents and families across our state. HB 2324 addresses the way in which stillbirth is handled in Kansas healthcare facilities.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecology's Kansas Section is taking a neutral position on this particular legislation because it does not specifically affect the way in which our physician members practice medicine when providing care to patients experiencing stillbirth.

HB 2324 provides important new developments in the collection of data and analysis of stillbirth and the conditions surrounding its occurrence. The collection of vital statistics and the research into what those statistics will eventually tell us about stillbirth represent a progressive and promising framework which will hopefully reduce the number of stillbirths in Kansas.

The legislation also makes certain provisions for the way in which healthcare facilities provide care to families experiencing stillbirth by establishing a consistent protocol across the state that respects the gravity of the effects of stillbirth on a family. As doctors whose profession is to deliver healthy babies, we all have seen the tragedy of stillbirth. While we dedicate our work to doing all we can to make sure it does not happen, when stillbirth does occur, competent medical care and compassion for the family is a priority for physicians.

The ACOG KS Section believes in the goals outlined in this legislation. Because it deals primarily with services provided by healthcare facilities subsequent to stillbirth and secondarily with government agencies which must collect data for analysis; we do not see this legislation significantly impacting the provision of quality medical care by our member physicians.

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