

EXHIBIT G



The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Iowa Section

Governor Kim Reynolds
Iowa State Capitol
1007 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

March 29, 2020

Dear Governor Reynolds,

As hospital and health systems, clinics, and communities prepare to meet increases in demand for the care of people with COVID-19, the Iowa Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) stands ready to partner with you to address this public health crisis. We understand that as part of the state's coronavirus response efforts, you are making difficult decisions about policies to maximize the capacity of our health care infrastructure. We respectfully ask that these policies do not inhibit or categorically single out access to abortion care, a time-sensitive, essential, non-elective procedure.

ACOG, along with professional organizations representing obstetrical and gynecological subspecialty and accrediting societies, have endorsed the Surgeon General's recommendation that hospitals suspend elective surgeries during the COVID-19 pandemic as one strategy to mitigate spread of the virus and to maximize health care resources. However, [ACOG and our partner organizations caution](#) that essential, time-sensitive obstetrical and gynecologic procedures for which a delay will negatively affect or harm patient health and safety should not be considered "elective" or "nonessential" and should not be delayed or cancelled in COVID-19 response efforts. As you consider categorizing procedures that can be delayed or cancelled during the COVID-19 pandemic, abortion should not be categorized as such a procedure.¹

Delaying abortion care poses an undue risk to a patient's current and future health. Abortion care is time-sensitive, for which a delay of several weeks, or in some cases days, may increase the risks, or potentially make it completely inaccessible. Safe, accessible abortion care maximizes the best outcomes for the patient. Further, forcing a patient to continue pregnancy can threaten her safety and health, as pregnancy can lead to complications or can exacerbate underlying health conditions. The consequences of being unable to obtain a needed abortion profoundly impact a person's life, health, and wellbeing.

Women will continue to need access to essential and timely abortion care in the weeks and months to come. Denying them access would impose undue risk to their current and future health. We urge you to maintain the ability of physicians and other clinicians to provide this appropriate, essential care.

We appreciate your partnership during this time of crisis,

Shannon Leveridge, MD, FACOG
Legislative Chair, Iowa Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

¹ See ACOG's statement, [Abortion Access During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#), issued jointly with American Board of Obstetrics & Gynecology, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, the American Gynecological & Obstetrical Society, the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the Society for Academic Specialists in General Obstetrics and Gynecology, the Society of Family Planning, and the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine.