



February 14, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

This week, the House of Representatives will consider House Joint Resolution 43 (HJ Res 43). This Resolution, if enacted, would overturn previously established regulations that prohibit the exclusion of qualified and eligible entities from receiving Title X funds to provide essential health services to women, consistent with the goals of the program.

The American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP) continues to be deeply concerned with ongoing efforts, at all levels of government, that seek to identify, isolate, and hinder access to legal, safe, and effective health care services to women. We are equally concerned with efforts that seek to limit and, in some cases prohibit, the ability of physicians, other qualified health care professionals, and health care facilities to deliver these legal health care services, as appropriate, to individual patients.

We view these efforts as inappropriate intrusions into the patient-physician relationship and outside the scope of legislative bodies. We urge all elected officials to take pause and truly reflect on the negative consequences these and similar actions have on our health care system and, more importantly, the health and well-being of patients. The patient-physician relationship needs to exist in an environment of honesty and transparency and it should be unencumbered by any legislative and/or regulatory interference except in matters clearly related to overall public health.

In closing, we would respectfully request that you always take a patient-centered perspective when considering proposals such as HJ Res 43. Establishing prohibitions or placing unnecessary limitations on an individual's access to legal, safe, and effective health care services from any qualified provider do not rise to the level of patient-centered in our opinion.

[www.aafp.org](http://www.aafp.org)

**President**

John Meigs, Jr., MD  
*Brent, AL*

**President-elect**

Michael Munger, MD  
*Overland Park, KS*

**Board Chair**

Wanda Filer, MD  
*York, PA*

**Directors**

Mott Blair, IV, MD, *Wallace, NC*  
John Cullen, MD, *Valdez, AK*  
Lynne Lillie, MD, *Rochester, MN*  
John Bender, MD, *Fort Collins, CO*  
Gary LeRoy, MD, *Dayton, OH*  
Carl Olden, MD, *Yakima, WA*

Robert Raspa, MD, *Orange Park, FL*

Leonard Reeves, MD, *Rome, GA*

Ada Stewart, MD, *Columbia, SC*

Matthew Burke, MD (New Physician Member), *Arlington, VA*

Stewart Decker, MD (Resident Member), *Klamath Falls, OR*

Lauren Abdul-Majeed (Student Member), *Chicago, IL*

**Speaker**

Javette C. Orgain, MD  
*Chicago, IL*

**Vice Speaker**

Alan Schwartzstein, MD  
*Oregon, WI*

**Executive Vice President**

Douglas E. Henley, MD  
*Leawood, KS*

Thank you for the opportunity to share these views. The AAFP appreciates your consideration as you proceed with this and other health care policies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Meigs, Jr.", with a stylized flourish at the end and the initials "MD" written in small letters to the right.

John Meigs, Jr., MD, FAFAP  
President

C: The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, Minority Whip  
The Honorable Steve Scalise, Majority Whip