Michigan Section
Office of the Chair
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May 10, 2006

Representative William VanRegenmorter, Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
Michigan House of Representatives
P. O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909

Dear Representative VanRegenmorter:

On behalf of the practicing obstetricians and gynecologists in the state of Michigan, I am writing to oppose House Bills 5879-5883. Screening for domestic abuse and intimidation are already part of routine care in our specialty. These bills put the practicing physician in the role of a law enforcement officer. Mandating the suggested changes in informed consent is forcing physicians to practice medicine in a way that may not be in the best interest of the patient. The bills as proposed are insensitive to the woman seeking termination of pregnancy due to anomalies not compatible with life, chromosomal abnormalities associated with severe malformation and profound mental retardation. Importantly, if a patient perceives the physician to be acting in the best interest of the law and not in her best interest, she may not seek medical care with her physician. The physician code of ethics requires we protect our patients in the best way possible in our best judgment.

Obstetricians and gynecologists need your help in maintaining safe and effective medical care. These bills are burdensome, unnecessary and I request they not move out of committee.

Sincerely,

Susan S Hendrix DO

Dr. Susan Hendrix, Chair
Michigan Section ACOG

CC: Judiciary Committee Members