

SUBJECT: Evidence-Based Reproductive Healthcare

SUBMITTED BY: Student Association of the ACOFP on behalf of  
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College of Osteopathic Medicine

REFERRED TO: 2023 American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)  
Congress of Delegates

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RESOLUTION NO. 11

- 1 WHEREAS, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM) core  
2 competencies for osteopathic medical students includes applying “evidence-based  
3 guidelines throughout the scope of practice”<sup>1</sup>; and
- 4 WHEREAS, evidence-based medicine is “conscientious, explicit, judicious and reasonable use of  
5 modern, best evidence in making decisions about the care of individual patients” through  
6 integrating “clinical experience and patient values with the best available research  
7 information”<sup>7</sup>; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are nonprofit organizations that falsely present  
9 themselves as healthcare clinics while providing pregnancy options counseling that does  
10 not include all of a patient’s options<sup>3,5</sup>; and
- 11 WHEREAS, informed consent, as defined by the Joint Commission, must include “the nature of the  
12 procedure, the risks and benefits and the procedure, reasonable alternatives, and risks and  
13 benefits of alternatives”<sup>8</sup>; and
- 14 WHEREAS, the United Nations recognizes abortion as “a key component of health services” which  
15 directly translates to improved maternal and infant mortality rates<sup>6</sup>; and
- 16 WHEREAS, only 26% of CPCs have a registered nurse and 16% have a board certified physician on  
17 staff<sup>3</sup>; and
- 18 WHEREAS, CPCs are nonmedical entities that are not held to safety, inspection, and regulation  
19 requirements that medical facilities are subject to, including the Health Insurance  
20 Portability and Accountability Act<sup>2,3</sup>; and
- 21 WHEREAS, CPCs often fail to disclose that their volunteers have no formal medical training while  
22 simultaneously providing ultrasound services where they may intentionally overestimate  
23 gestational age for the purpose of making women believe they are beyond the legal limit  
24 for accessing abortion<sup>2,3,4</sup>; and

25 WHEREAS CPCs educate their clients with false claims about side effects of abortions, including  
 26 mental health repercussions, higher incidences of breast cancer, abortion reversal  
 27 procedures, and infertility that have been disproven<sup>2,3,4</sup>; and

28 WHEREAS, in a study of 348 CPC websites, over 80% had false or misleading claims<sup>2</sup>, including the  
 29 terms “abortion clinic” where they do not provide these services<sup>4</sup>; and

30 WHEREAS, CPCs do not provide evidence-based medicine and do not provide comprehensive  
 31 contraception services<sup>2,5</sup>; and

32 WHEREAS, rates of teen abortions decreased by 40% in Colorado when access to evidence-based  
 33 contraception, like long-acting reversible contraceptives increased<sup>2</sup>; now, therefore be it

34 RESOLVED, that the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP) discourage  
 35 medical student and resident training in Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs); and, be it further

36 RESOLVED, that the ACOFP research developing educational materials for student, resident, and  
 37 attending physician members about the potential dangers CPCs pose to women obtaining  
 38 comprehensive reproductive healthcare; and, be it further

39 RESOLVED that ACOFP encourages physician members to avoid referring pregnant patients to  
 40 CPCs for options counseling; and, be it further

41 RESOLVED that the ACOFP support legislation requiring CPCs to provide accurate information on  
 42 their websites regarding the services they provide.

FINAL ACTION: DISAPPROVED as of March 29, 2023

Explanatory statement: Recommend disapproval as this resolution has potential for impacting the patient-physician relationship by limiting physician referrals and limiting access to medical education. It is not the purview of the ACOFP to direct where colleges of osteopathic medicine (COMs) train their students and state educational material is provided by other organizations, such as the American College of Osteopathic Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOOG).

#### References:

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2. Polcyn C, Swiezy S, Genn L, Wickramage P, Sidiqqi N, Johnson C, Nair P, Bernard C, Miller V. Truth and Transparency in Crisis Pregnancy Centers. *Womens Health Rep (New Rochelle)*. 2020 Jul 27;1(1):224-226. doi: 10.1089/whr.2020.0057. PMID: 33786483; PMCID: PMC7784822.
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