

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

# S. RES. 170

To express the sense of the Senate that obstetrician-gynecologists should be included as primary care providers for women in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19 (legislative day, NOVEMBER 2), 1993

Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. INOUE, Mr. HATFIELD, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. MURKOWSKI, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. LOTT, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mr. SIMON, Mr. DURENBERGER, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Mr. WARNER, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REID, Mr. FORD, Mr. DECONCINI, Mr. WOFFORD, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. PELL, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. EXON, Mr. MACK, Mr. JOHNSTON, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## RESOLUTION

To express the sense of the Senate that obstetrician-gynecologists should be included as primary care providers for women in Federal laws relating to the provision of health care.

Whereas women constitute more than 50 percent of the population of the United States;

Whereas, because women's health historically has received little attention in terms of Federal funding and in terms of

research priorities, there should be an increased emphasis on the needs and preferences of women in such areas;

Whereas the Federal Government should increase its support for women's health and can make a significant difference in improving the status of women's health;

Whereas increased funding for research is insignificant if women's health care services are restricted;

Whereas many women view their obstetrician-gynecologist as their primary or sole physician;

Whereas approximately 70 percent of women would be unwilling to change their obstetrician-gynecologist to save money;

Whereas an obstetrician-gynecologist improves the access to health care of a woman by providing primary and preventive health care throughout the woman's lifetime, encompassing care of the whole patient in addition to focusing on the processes of the female reproductive system;

Whereas preventive and primary care provided by an obstetrician-gynecologist includes instruction in breast self-examination, cervical cancer screening, health education, instruction in health promotion, hypertension and cardiovascular surveillance, osteoporosis counseling, sexually transmitted diseases counseling, and identification of victims of domestic violence;

Whereas the most effective way to treat health problems is to prevent such problems from occurring or to catch such problems in the early stages, when such problems are most treatable;

Whereas 60 percent of all office visits to obstetrician-gynecologists are for preventive care;

Whereas obstetrician-gynecologists refer their patients to other physicians less frequently than other primary care providers, thus avoiding costly and time-consuming referrals;

Whereas more than two-thirds of all visits to obstetrician-gynecologists were by established patients of the physician who were returning for care of a medical condition;

Whereas obstetrician-gynecologists manage the health of women beyond the reproductive system, and are uniquely qualified on the basis of education and experience to provide such health care services to women;

Whereas obstetrician-gynecologists provide health care to women with an awareness of the relationship of disease to family history;

Whereas over two-thirds of general family practice physicians do not deliver newborns and will not be able to address this need of women; and

Whereas 80 percent of maternity care services in the United States are provided by obstetrician-gynecologists: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

2               (1) obstetrician-gynecologists should be included  
3       as primary care providers for women in Federal laws  
4       relating to the provision of health care; and

5               (2) legislative proposals that define primary  
6       care should include primary care services performed  
7       by obstetrician-gynecologists in such definition.

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