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ACOG
THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS

February 11, 2016

The Michigan Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) OPPOSES SB 564 & 565.

A joint statement by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) and nearly 60 leading academic medical centers and scientific and medical societies, including Michigan State University College of Human Medicine, University of Michigan Medical School, Harvard University and Yale School of Medicine along with ACOG, addresses the chilling impact on future medical research that would result from legislative proposals like SB 564/565 that limit access to fetal tissue for research.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recognizes the value of fetal tissue as a "critical resource" for lifesaving research for many diseases and debilitating conditions. Vaccine research has benefitted significantly from human fetal tissue research and current lines are in use to develop a vaccine to address Ebola. It would be both unwise and unethical to limit the ability of scientists to find and develop rapid responses to new, and yet to be understood threats such as current Zika virus threat to unborn children and their families.

This legislation will have unintended consequences that will generate pressing legal challenges on many fronts, including the rights of the citizens of Michigan to the best and latest research to improve their healthcare.

We urge the Committee to vote NO on SB 564 and 565.

Respectfully,

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