

Statement for the Record

Of

The American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists

Before the

U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government

Regarding

“From Tool to Weapon: The FACE Act and the Dangers of Federalizing Criminal Law”

April 28, 2026

Chair Roy, Ranking Member Scanlon, and distinguished members of the U.S. House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Limited Government, thank you for the opportunity to provide this statement for the record on behalf of the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists (ACOG). ACOG is the foremost professional membership organization for obstetrician-gynecologists, with a membership of more than 62,000 physicians and partners dedicated to advancing women's health. Our organization strongly supports, and many of our members provide, the full spectrum of reproductive health care. As such, our members, their staff, and their patients are uniquely harmed by efforts to undermine the Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACE) Act that has provided needed protection from threats, intimidation, and violence for over 30 years.

The bipartisan FACE Act was signed into law in 1994 in response to an increase in violence against abortion providers. Facilities and clinicians were subject to instances of vandalism, arson, bombings, chemical attacks, and even murder, as in the case of Dr. David Gunn of Pensacola, Florida in March of 1993.¹ In the years since *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, there have been 11 murders, 42 bombings, and over 200 arsons associated with anti-abortion activism.²

Threats of harm against ACOG members continue to this day.³ For example, a fertility clinic in Palm Springs was damaged by an intentional explosion less than one year ago.⁴ Last month, a man in Montana entered the back yard of an abortion provider's home with a gun and knocked on the window. According to Helena local news station KTVH, the man "told investigators he had been inspired by attacks on abortion clinics and providers in the 1990s."⁵ He admitted to shooting at a Helena abortion clinic in 2023.⁶

ACOG believes that all people should have access to the full spectrum of comprehensive, evidence-based health care, which includes abortion and fertility care.⁷ Individuals seeking abortion and fertility care must be afforded privacy, dignity, respect, and support, and should be able to make their medical decisions without undue interference – including harassment, intimidation, threats, or physical attack or obstruction – by outside parties. Furthermore, we strongly oppose any effort that interferes in the relationship between a person and their health care professional, such as laws that subject our members to criminal penalties, lawsuits, fines, or other punishments for providing the full spectrum of evidence-based care.

The FACE Act remains an important safeguard for ACOG members and the patients seeking their services. We urge the Subcommittee to consider the life-threatening dangers obstetrician-gynecologists continue to face as they practice medicine in an evidence-based, lawful manner. ACOG appreciates your consideration of our concerns and welcomes the Subcommittee to contact the ACOG Government Affairs department at govtrel@acog.org for further discussion of this important matter.

¹ Rohter, Larry. Doctor Is Slain During Protest Over Abortions. New York Times. March 11, 1993.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1993/03/11/us/doctor-is-slain-during-protest-over-abortions.html>

² American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. Violence against Providers of Abortion Care and Clinics. Accessed April 27, 2026.

<https://www.acog.org/advocacy/abortion-is-essential/trending-issues/violence-against-providers-of-abortion-care-and-clinics>

³ American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. ACOG Condemns Acts of Violence Related to Reproductive Health Care. June 17, 2025.

<https://www.acog.org/news/news-releases/2025/06/acog-condemns-acts-of-violence-related-to-reproductive-health-care>

⁴ Chuck, Elizabeth. Bombing at IVF clinic should be a security wake-up call for fertility centers, experts say. NBC News. May 19, 2025.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/bombing-ivf-clinic-security-wake-call-fertility-centers-experts-say-rcna207675>

⁵ Ambarian, Jonathon. Court documents: Man told officers he shot at Helena Planned Parenthood in 2023. KTVH. March 23, 2026.

<https://www.ktvh.com/news/court-documents-man-told-officers-he-shot-at-helena-planned-parenthood-in-2023>

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists. Abortion Policy. July 2025. <https://www.acog.org/clinical-information/policy-and-position-statements/statements-of-policy/2025/abortion-policy>