

## **Resolution to Ensure that Abortion Remains Accessible in New York State**

WHEREAS abortion is a legal medical procedure, frequently provided by family physicians, sought by approximately 35% of all U.S. women by age 45,<sup>1</sup> and

WHEREAS the NYSAFP has endorsed the Reproductive Health Act which codifies abortion as a legal medical procedure and decriminalizes it for New York State practitioners, and

WHEREAS “the AAFP opposes all discrimination in any form, including but not limited to, that on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnic affiliation, health, age, disability, economic status, body habitus or national origin,”<sup>2</sup> and

WHEREAS the AAFP Policy on Gender Equity in Prescription Drug Coverage states that, “employers and health plans should not discriminate by gender in the provision of health care benefits including a) prescription contraceptive drugs and devices and b) elective sterilization procedures. These benefits should be covered under the same terms and conditions as other prescription drugs and devices and elective surgeries,”<sup>3</sup> and

WHEREAS President Obama recently signed into law the “America’s Affordable Health Choices Act of 2009,” which will restrict abortion coverage from the new public insurance exchanges, forcing those enrolled in these new plans to buy a separate policy for abortion coverage, and

WHEREAS President Obama’s executive order expands the restriction on federal funding of abortion beyond that mandated by the Hyde Amendment, and

WHEREAS these restrictions on insurance coverage of abortion make “healthcare coverage for all” impossible as they deny coverage for a legal medical procedure to every woman in the United States who depends on health insurance provided by the federal government, and this is especially unjust because these women are mostly of lower socio-economic status and thus have less access to abortion than privately insured and wealthier women, and

WHEREAS the law allows for individual states to provide abortion coverage, as New York State has traditionally done, under state funded Medicaid and allows for states to broaden or restrict other insurance coverage of abortion, now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the NYSAFP will support efforts to ensure access to abortion, a single, legal medical procedure sought by U.S. women more often than any other non-dental procedure, and thus ensure that healthcare coverage does not discriminate, and further be further be it

RESOLVED, that the delegates to the AAFP COD present a resolution for the AAFP to revise its Policy on Gender Equity in Prescription Drug Coverage to include abortion care.

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<sup>1</sup> Guttmacher Institute. An overview of abortion in the United States  
<http://www.guttmacher.org/media/presskits/2005/06/28/abortionoverview.html>

<sup>2</sup> AAFP Policy on Patient Discrimination  
<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/d/discrimination.html>

<sup>3</sup> AAFP Policy on Gender Equity in Prescription Coverage  
<http://www.aafp.org/online/en/home/policy/policies/g/genderequity.html>