



THE AMERICAN CONGRESS
OF OBSTETRICIANS
AND GYNECOLOGISTS

Office of the President

Mark S. DeFrancesco, MD, MBA FACOG

June 8, 2015

The Honorable Bonnie Watson Coleman
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Watson Coleman:

On behalf of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing over 59,000 physicians and partners in women's health, thank you for introducing your bill to create a special enrollment period for pregnant women. We applaud your commitment to women's health and ensuring that women can get into the most suitable coverage option at this pivotal point in their lives. Your leadership on this issue is vital as we work to improve women's access to health insurance and affordable, high-quality care.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) has put in place landmark protections for pregnant women, including making maternity care an Essential Health Benefit and requiring plans to cover prenatal care with no cost-sharing. However, without the recognition that pregnancy is a life event these protections cannot be fully realized. Your bill would fix this oversight and help ensure that pregnant women receive timely access to prenatal care and affordable maternity care.

As the nation's leading group of professionals providing health care for women, ACOG knows the importance of coverage to the health of mothers and babies. Almost as important as getting coverage, your bill would also allow women to switch health plans that more appropriately meet their health needs and provide financial protection for pregnant women and their families during this life-changing period.

Thank you again for your leadership and support for women's health. Should you have any questions, please contact Nevena Minor, ACOG Federal Affairs Director, at 202-314-2322 or nminor@acog.org.

Sincerely,

Mark S. DeFrancesco, MD, MBA, FACOG
President