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Joint Media Release

The South Carolina Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (SCOGS) and the South Carolina Section of the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) are pleased to announce their endorsement of the Birth Outcomes Initiative (BOI) sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). SCOGS and ACOG have worked closely with DHHS in the development of this initiative and we believe that it will be beneficial for the health outcomes for both mothers and babies born in South Carolina. Specifically, we support the elimination of elective deliveries less than 39 weeks of gestational age. There is substantial and convincing evidence that elective delivery at less than 39 weeks results in increased morbidity and mortality for newborns and drives up the cost of care for all women which results in decreasing access to that same care.

We support the specific recommendations from the BOI which encourages hospitals to self-monitor and encourage the elimination of deliveries less than 39 weeks. We support the concept of having 2 physician champions who will oversee the effort and who will be able to ascertain circumstances when delivery less than 39 weeks is medically appropriate. We have also developed and endorsed a list of maternal and fetal conditions which are generally accepted and evidence based indications for delivery less than 39 weeks.

We appreciate the opportunity to partner with DHHS in this important initiative which will improve neonatal outcome, help maintain maternal access to healthcare and minimize across the board reimbursement decreases to our members. We believe that this collaborative approach for improving outcomes and access to healthcare in our state is a wise one. We look forward to working with DHHS on future projects to improve the healthcare for women.

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