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## PRESS RELEASE

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### **CMA and NCBC Respond to Misleading Statement from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Physicians for Reproductive Health: *Abortion Can Be Medically Necessary***

The Catholic Medical Association and the National Catholic Bioethics Center recognize the obligation to treat both patients, the mother and the unborn child, when a life-threatening pathological situation arises during pregnancy. Certain pathological situations, like infected membranes (chorioamnionitis), can allow for a treatment of the mother to directly remedy the infection, for example, by inducing labor to expel the infected membranes, and tolerating the unintended loss of the life of the pre-viable child. Such interventions are not direct abortions, and are justifiable under the principle of double effect. Certain other kinds of pathological situations during pregnancy, such as pulmonary hypertension or cardiac disease, can require tailored interventions in the form of expectant management, at least until viability of the unborn, to try to save both mother and child. If that is not possible, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Physicians for Reproductive Health offer, in a recent joint statement, the following problematic declaration:

"There are situations where pregnancy termination in the form of an abortion is the only medical intervention that can preserve a patient's health or save their life."

Their "final solution" of directly and intentionally terminating one patient's life as a means of "helping" another is egregiously unethical and represents a failure to do precisely what they declare, namely, to "preserve a patient's health or save their life." Instead they

are counseling the focused misuse of medicine to destroy rather than to heal the life of the *in utero* patient. Direct abortion is never medical care, nor is it morally equivalent to inducing labor to remove a pathology, and under no circumstances can a patient under the care of a health care provider be abandoned in this way and targeted for extermination, even if another person might derive benefit. Both patients deserve better. Both deserve the devoted care and full extent of healing treatments made available by modern therapeutic medicine.

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The Catholic Medical Association is a national, physician-led community of over 2,300 healthcare professionals consisting of 109 local guilds. CMA mission is to inform, organize, and inspire its members, in steadfast fidelity to the teachings of the Catholic Church, to uphold the principles of the Catholic faith in the science and practice of medicine.

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