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The dangers of parental consent start before obstetric care

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To the Editors:
The "Call to Action" issued by Dr Bortoletto and colleagues focuses attention on a key population.¹ As with many adolescents and adulthood exposes adolescents to the risk of being subject to the rules of neither. It is essential to ensure that adolescents are empowered to receive the reproductive options and care that all women deserve. However, it is critical to note that our adolescents receive comprehensive reproductive health care predates their first prenatal visit. 11 states have laws requiring parental consent, 11 have laws mandating prior parental notification, and 18 states have laws that have been temporarily or permanently enjoined.² Given that 75% of pregnancies are unintended, the right to choose how to manage a pregnancy must be part of adolescent reproductive care.³

Predictors of contraceptive switching and discontinuation within the first six months of use among HER Salt Lake study participants
Simmons, Rebecca G. Sanders, Jessica N. Geist, Claudia Gawron, Lori Myers, Kyla Turok, David K. et al.

Dr Espey and colleagues elegantly outline the importance of full reproductive autonomy for all women, and particularly for adolescents, in their articles in this journal, with the support of our subspecialty societies and the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine.⁴ In this spirit, I echo Dr Bortoletto's call and urge us to consider not just obstetric care or gynecologic care, but women's care.

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