



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 23, 2013**

**Contact:** Sara Alcid, 202-530-4401, [salcid@rhtp.org](mailto:salcid@rhtp.org)

## **The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists & American Society for Reproductive Medicine Announce Support for Chemical Policy Reform**

*(Washington, DC) — Statement by Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, on the announcement from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine in support of chemical policy reform.*

“Today’s joint Committee Opinion from The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and the American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) in support of chemical policy reform signals a groundbreaking shift in the engagement of reproductive health professionals and advocates in the fight for chemical policy reform.

“The Committee Opinion recognizes that to ensure that women have healthy pregnancies, we must reduce our exposure to toxic chemicals and reform the way chemicals are regulated in this country.

“Even those of us with access to the best prenatal care and the resources to make (sometimes expensive) changes to our lifestyles can’t completely eliminate exposure to chemicals that are harming our health and that of our families. We need to reform our laws.

“In recent years, we have seen an increase in women experiencing reproductive health issues, ranging from infertility to endometriosis. Nevertheless, with only 200 of the 80,000 chemicals in production having ever been tested for health safety, there is much that we don’t know about the threat of toxic chemicals. As a result, all pregnant women are exposed to a bath of chemicals that are affecting their health and the health of their developing fetuses.

“What’s more, communities of color and low-income communities are disproportionately impacted by toxic chemicals because of where they live and work. No woman should have to learn and understand the chemical safety profile of every product to which she may be exposed – through the food she eats, the sunscreen she puts on her skin, the solvents used in her workplace – just so she can have a healthy pregnancy.

“Instead of wasting time debating whether to set gestational limits on abortion or allow your boss to exclude birth control coverage from your health plan, Members of Congress could be having a



meaningful discussion about what we can do to better protect maternal and fetal health for the women who choose to become pregnant and carry a pregnancy to term.

“Reproductive health and justice advocates are pleased to have the support and guidance of ACOG, ASRM and the healthcare providers they represent in the push for chemical policies that protect reproductive health.”

# # #

**Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, is available for interview upon request.**