



Angel M. Rios, M.D.

OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY  
Diplomate of the American Board  
of Obstetrics and Gynecology

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Fellow of the American College  
of Obstetricians and Gynecologists

September 26, 2015

Mr. Jon Opelt  
Executive Director  
Texas Alliance For Patient Access  
2301 S. Capital of Texas Highway, J-101  
Austin, TX 78746

Dear Mr. Opelt:

My colleagues and I are greatly concerned about how the *Montano* ruling will affect our patients and our practice. We are hopeful that the court's decision will be reversed.

I have practiced obstetrics and gynecology in El Paso for the past 23 years. During that time I have delivered thousands of babies. Hundreds of these babies were born to mothers who reside in New Mexico.

A significant portion of my practice comes from Sunland Park, Santa Teresa, Anthony, Messila and Las Cruces, New Mexico. These women seek my services because they have confidence in the care that I provide.

In the broader context, they choose to deliver their baby in El Paso, because we can provide intensive neonatal care that is not available in Southern New Mexico. Dona Ana and its neighboring counties do not have the advanced technology and specialized staff training that we have in El Paso.

The only neonatal intensive care units in the state are in Roswell and Albuquerque, which are hundreds of miles to the north. Mothers and their families simply don't want to be separated from their newborn.

If the *Montano* ruling stands, expectant mothers who live in New Mexico will have difficulty finding Texas obstetricians who are willing to accept them as new patients.

From a liability standpoint, Texas physicians will be twice bitten. We will lose Texas liability protections when treating New Mexico patients. And because our practices are not in New Mexico we will remain ineligible to buy into (and receive the benefits of) the New Mexico Patient Compensation Fund. Expectant mothers and other patients will lose access to Texas medical specialists on whom they have come to rely. Such a ruling would not serve the greater good.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angel Rios'.

Angel Rios, MD FACOG  
Past President El Paso County Medical Society  
1250 E. Cliff, Ste. 3-D  
El Paso, Texas 79902  
Phone: (915) 577-9100  
Fax: (915)577-9977