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SMFM Statement on Zika Deal

WASHINGTON, September 22, 2016— Mary Norton, M.D., President of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) today issued the following statement related to the Congressional deal on Zika funding:

“Today’s news that Congress has finally reached a deal to fund a response to the Zika virus is an important turning point in the fight against Zika as a public health threat. We hope this vital funding will be signed into law as soon as possible. SMFM has been urging Congress to act swiftly to fund Zika response efforts since February when President Obama requested the funding from Congress, and it is encouraging that partisanship has been set aside so that we can focus on those who most need help – pregnant mothers, infants, and children. As high-risk pregnancy physician specialists, maternal-fetal medicine doctors are on the front lines of the Zika efforts. This deal will ensure that efforts aimed at Zika prevention, vaccine development, and further research on the current and ongoing impact of Zika on infected mothers and babies can move forward. We continue to worry about the potential further increase in the number of those infected in the U.S. population. A response by the government at home and abroad is essential to ensure that Americans are protected and that this devastating disease is eradicated before more babies are impacted.

SMFM has worked with federal agencies and other organizations like the American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists to provide up-to-date information and guidance about Zika since the devastating consequences of infection during pregnancy were first reported. We stand ready to ensure that those at risk of Zikainfection are receiving the best clinical care, that our researchers have access to the most recent data, and that the United States can respond aggressively to this public health threat.”

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The Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (est. 1977) is the premiere membership organization for obstetricians/gynecologists who have additional formal education and training in maternal-fetal medicine. The society is devoted to reducing high-risk pregnancy complications by sharing expertise through continuing education to its 2,000 members on the latest pregnancy assessment and treatment methods. It also serves as an advocate for improving public policy, and expanding research funding and opportunities for maternal-fetal medicine. The group hosts an annual meeting in which groundbreaking new ideas and research in the area of maternal-fetal medicine are shared and discussed. For more information visit www.smfm.org.