

My name is Kara Malone and I am an obstetrician and gynecologist. Part of my work involves taking care of pregnant adolescents. As a result, I am well aware of the challenges faced to obtain consent for prenatal care. There have been multiple instances in the last 3 years where minors were not able to consent for their medical care and it delayed access to timely care. They are unable to consent for prenatal care, ultrasounds, and anesthesia during delivery. They are also unable to consent for birth control. The other challenge that is created is inability to obtain health insurance on their own. This can create financial challenges for a family that does meet Medicaid eligibility but who do not have the resources to pay for prenatal care and a hospital delivery out of pocket. Ohio has the chance to change the law to reflect the state's interests in caring for this vulnerable population. Adequate prenatal care can reduce maternal and infant morbidity and mortality risks and we should have laws in place to facilitate obtaining care, not obstruct it.

Dr. Kara Malone, MD, FACOG

Obstetrician and Gynecologist

Columbus, OH