

THE SENATE HEALTH CARE BILL EXPANDS ABORTION

Senate bill H.R. 3590 is the most massively pro-abortion single piece of legislation ever approved by Congress.

- **H.R. 3590 will subsidize insurance policies that cover abortion-on-demand.**

This bill will have the exact opposite effect of the Hyde Amendment by offering tax subsidies to plans that cover elective abortion.

- **H.R. 3590 will require all enrollees in health insurance plans covering abortion to pay for abortions obtained by other plan participants.**

Under the accounting gimmick established in the bill, any individual who participates in a plan that covers abortion will be forced to contribute at least \$1 of their premium into an abortion fund, whether they desire abortion coverage or not.

- **H.R. 3590 grants authority to federal officials to mandate abortion coverage.**

This bill prevents abortion from being mandated as an “essential benefit,” but explicitly allows other federal agencies and appointees to mandate private insurance plans to cover abortion.

- **H.R. 3590 does not adequately protect the right of conscience of health care entities.**

This bill lacks language to protect health care providers from being penalized by state and local governments or by the federal government for refusing to participate in providing abortions.

The President's executive order merely reiterates the accounting gimmick included in the Senate bill and reinforces the same flawed policy that was opposed in H.R. 3590.

US Conference of Catholic Bishops: The statutory mandate construed by the courts would override any executive order or regulation. This is the unanimous view of our legal advisors and of the experts we have consulted on abortion jurisprudence. Only a change in the law enacted by Congress, not an executive order, can begin to address this very serious problem in the legislation.

National Right to Life Committee: The executive order promised by President Obama was issued for political effect. It changes nothing. It does not correct any of the serious pro-abortion provisions in the bill. The President cannot amend a bill by issuing an order, and the federal courts will enforce what the law says.

Americans United for Life: Current law forbids federal dollars from going to insurance plans that cover abortions, regardless of whether or not the dollars directly pay for abortions. In contrast, all [section 2] of the executive order accomplishes is strict compliance with the anti-life “abortion surcharge” provision in the bill.

Family Research Council: Section 2 of the Executive Order actually reaffirms the subsidies for abortion covering plans in the Senate bill Sec. 1303 (p. 2070) which expressly authorizes plans in each exchange to include elective abortion.

Only permanent, bill-wide statutory language can prevent federal funding for abortion coverage through the government-regulated exchanges, protect the right of conscience for health care providers, and guarantee that private insurance companies are not mandated to cover abortion.

The Republican Motion to Recommit would have reinserted the bill-wide, permanent pro-life protections provided under the Stupak-Pitts Amendment.