

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Louise Slaughter
Chairwoman, Rules Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-312 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Chairwoman Slaughter:

We urge you to allow Members of the House to vote their consciences with regard to abortion and health care reform by allowing consideration of an amendment to prohibit government funding of abortion, to be offered by Congressmen Bart Stupak and Joe Pitts.

Proposed health reform legislation, H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, radically departs from the current federal government policy of not paying for elective abortion or subsidizing plans that cover abortion. None of the bills reported out of the three committees of jurisdiction have addressed our serious concerns about public funding for abortion. The version that was approved by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, containing the Capps Amendment, actually explicitly authorizes the federal government (the Department of Health and Human Services) to directly fund elective abortions, with federal (public) funds drawn on a federal Treasury account. Widely circulated claims that these would be "private" funds are misleading; they are contrary to law and the until-now universal understanding of what constitutes federal funds. The simple fact is that under the Capps language, the U.S. Treasury will be permitted to issue checks to abortion clinics to reimburse for abortion on demand for the first time in decades.

The bill also explicitly provides for government subsidies to pay the premiums for private insurance policies that include elective abortion coverage. This, too, is a drastic break from longstanding federal policy. The Hyde Amendment has, for over 30 years, prevented programs funded by the annual Health and Human Services Appropriations bill from financing abortion. However, H.R. 3200 bypasses the annual appropriations bills and directly appropriates funding for both the public option and the affordability credits. This means the Hyde amendment will not apply to the public option or to the premium subsidy program created by H.R. 3200. In two memos (attached), the Congressional Research Service has confirmed that these programs will not require any future appropriations. In addition, legislation of this magnitude should include permanent language to ensure that federal funds are not used to support abortion.

Under current law, direct federal funding of abortion is prohibited, with narrow exceptions, and federal subsidies are also prohibited from flowing into trust funds or insurance plans that cover elective abortion. All of the existing government health care programs, including Medicaid, the State Children's Health Insurance Plan, the Department of Defense health programs, the Federal Employees Health Benefits

Program, and others, are prohibited by congressional enactments from covering abortion (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest). This reflects the position that the U.S. government should not be in the business of promoting abortion as health care. Real health care is about saving and nurturing life, not about taking life.

We respectfully request that the Rules Committee report a rule that allows all Members of the U.S. House of Representatives the right to vote their conscience on an amendment offered by Congressmen Stupak and Pitts regarding government funding for abortion. Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Rout Stupak

by Pitts PA-16

Kathleen A. Dahlke

Chris Smith

H. E. Bonior

Jean Schmidt

Jim Oberstar

John Kline

Coli C. Peterson

Nichelle Bachmann

Jim Cooper (TN-4)

Carol P. Roe

K. J. W. Zyg

Joe Donnell

Robert E. Jatta

Frank M. Motta

Al Fontenay

Daniel Lipinski

Deans W. Childers

John Roosma

Joe H. [unclear]

Tim Holden

Bartlett

Jimmy H. Corletto

Sam Cole

Todd R. Platts

Jim Lenczowski

John [unclear] IL19

Jul 1 L Biele

Adrian Smith

Kent Stanks

Maria Berry

g Ry Duke

Jim Oberstar

Mike McIntyre

Gene Taylor

John Emerson

Bob Goodlatte

Wendell Scott

Jim Bala

Bill Cassidy

Foy Blunt

Jim McDermott

Jerry Moran

Mac 7/4

Mid Rm

Dan Burton

Walter B. Jones

Cole E. Under

Vernon J. Ehlers

Frank Lloyd

Arzo

Eiri Cantu

John Boehm

W. Call Albini

Bob Bly

Jet Hambley

Bill Ray

Wally Hergen

Ben Inglis

Mr. Moody

Frank R. Woy

Daniel E. Foy

Shirley

Anna Keller

John Culberson TEXAS! 7

Dean G. Thy PA-05

Jo Bounded ac-1

Flora Brown

Ralph M. Hill

Tom Kelly

Pete Holte

Samuel Holt UT-3

Pre Sessing

John Edmunds

M. O. Boyd

Phil Batt

Ann Schuman

Doug Santom

Pete Olsen

Pat S.

Candice L. Miller

AMM

La Grange

Thomas P.

John F.

P. Parker Griffith

Scott Garrett - ny 05

Arthur P. Carg

John Fleming

Edna H. Pat

James

Steve Seale, LA-1

Walt TX-24

Lamar Smith, TX-21

Cynthia P. Lummus Wyo.

Pete Olson TX-22

Phil Perry, Pa 11

Mary Foltz OK-5

Donald A. Manzullo (IL-16)

Patrick J. Leahy (VT-10)

Barney Frank TX-19

Scott Marcell NJ-05

Ji Jordan OH-4

Steve Rosten OH-7

Eric Lipton MN-03

Larry Gohmert GA-1

Ben Ray Lujan TX-1

Kenny 1002

Tom Stuber

Gene Snyper

Bob Wittman

Jim Miller

John Dwyer to 26

John Klein MW-2

Paul Lewis OK-3

Joe Barton

KFB RAO

Michael M'Zul

Cliff Stearns

Zeevang

my lot RB

Nathan Deal

Mark Lewis

Timothy

[Signature]

John Binder

Gus M. Belarbi

Blair Luskamp

Cliff Bortling J

Bill Shurtz

Pat Ryan

Virginia Fox

Sam Johnson

Lynn A. [Signature]

Cathy [Signature]

Robert B. Adair

Steve King

[Signature]

[Signature]

Ron Paul

JOE Wilson

Bob

Vern Buchanan

Phil Wilson

Lee Myrick

Jane Camp

Paul C Brown

Mike (m)

Radney Alexander

Bob

Brett Harper

John

Paul (m)

Charles

Bob

L. M. Ches

Brett Guthrie

Jason Altmire

Paul Ryan

Dem. Nunn

Jeff Davis

T. J. Van

Rob Portis

Shirley Chisholm

Mike Coffe

Jerry Lewis

Howard O. Buck

Ken Albert

Tom Latham

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Brian P. Sullivan

Ray Smith

Howard Noble

Ray Warden

Harold Ryan

Ed Whitfield

Ray Padanovich

Ed Royce

Connie Mack

Mike Sayers

Dan Rostenkowski

Kevin McCarthy

Pat Tilce

John Campbell

Mark R. ...

J.J.P.
