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Oklahomans For Life - LEGISLATIVE ALERT

September 9th, 2009

U.S. House and Senate to Vote on Health Bills That Will Greatly Expand and Fund Abortion!

We Oklahomans have the most pro-life congressional delegation in the country. Both of our Republican U.S. senators, Jim Inhofe and Tom Coburn, and all four Republican House members - John Sullivan, Frank Lucas, Tom Cole, and Mary Fallin - have had 100% pro-life voting records throughout their years in Congress. All oppose abortion coverage or subsidies for abortions in pending health-care bills.



Although 2nd District Democrat U.S. Representative Dan Boren has had a mixed record on pro-life votes, he has been a leader among Democrats in the U.S. House in opposing abortion coverage, abortion funding, or abortion subsidies in the pending health-care legislation. Congressman Boren circulated a letter among Democrat members of the House and got pledges from 19 Democrats to oppose any health-care legislation which does not explicitly exclude abortion.

Please thank our Oklahoma U.S. House members for their pro-life leadership and for insisting that coverage of, or funding for, abortion be explicitly excluded from any health-care bill. They can be reached at 202-225-3121.

And please thank Oklahoma's U.S. senators, Tom Coburn and Jim Inhofe, for their pro-life leadership in opposing the inclusion of abortion in any health-care legislation. They may be reached at 202-224-3121.

The following is a new Legislative Alert from the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). It contains links to detailed documentation. Thank you for contacting members of our congressional delegation. It is important that they receive our thanks, our encouragement, and our pro-life input.

Tony Lauinger
State Chairman, Oklahomans For Life

To send e-mails to your representative and senators in Congress, and for other suggestions on how you can take immediate and effective action on this issue, please click [here](#).

WASHINGTON (Updated September 7, 2009) - The U.S. House of Representatives is expected to vote soon -- perhaps in late September -- on "health care reform" legislation (H.R. 3200) that contains far-reaching pro-abortion provisions, including a new nationwide insurance plan, run entirely by the federal government, that would cover all elective abortions.

The Democratic leaders who hold majority control in the U.S. Senate are also planning to push sweeping health-care restructuring legislation to the floor in

the near future. A Senate committee has approved a health care bill that contains provisions that would result in the greatest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*.

The bills are being pushed hard by President Obama and by top Democratic congressional leaders, including pro-abortion House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Ca.) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nv.). The Democrats hold majority control of both the House and the Senate, occupying about three-fifths of the seats in each house.

On August 19, Obama said that it was "not true" and a "fabrication" to say that the legislation would result in "government funding of abortion." In an immediate response, the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) said, "President Obama today brazenly misrepresented the abortion-related component of the health care legislation that his congressional allies and staff have crafted." Read the NRLC statement [here](#). Read the FactCheck.org analysis of the President's statement and NRLC's response, titled "Abortion: Which Side is Fabricating?," [here](#).

Growing public concerns about the bills caused sufficient resistance among some factions of Democrats that the leadership was forced to abandon the original plan of having floor votes on the bills in July. (Keep checking this page for regular updates on the legislative situation.)

No congressional Republican has yet endorsed either of the bills being pushed by the White House.

In the House, the White House is behind H.R. 3200, which has been approved by three different committees. All three committees voted down NRLC-backed amendments to prevent the bills from mandating coverage of abortions and to prevent federal subsidies for abortions, as only a few Democrats joined the minority Republican members in support of the amendments.

On the third panel, the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the pro-abortion side narrowly won adoption of a "phony compromise" amendment written by staff to Chairman Henry Waxman (D-Ca.) and offered by Rep. Lois Capps (D-Ca.). (Both Waxman and Capps have solidly pro-abortion career records.) The Capps-Waxman Amendment would explicitly authorize coverage of all elective abortions under the giant new "public plan" that the bill would create, and also would allow federal subsidies to flow to private insurance plans that cover elective abortions.

The pro-abortion members of the committee voted down an NRLC-backed amendment offered by Reps. Bart Stupak (D-Mi.) and Joe Pitts (R-Pa.) to prohibit federal subsidies from going to plans that cover elective abortions.

"The adoption of the pro-abortion Capps-Waxman Amendment, and the rejection of the pro-life Stupak-Pitts amendment, underscores that H.R. 3200 would drastically change federal policy, channeling massive new federal subsidies to health plans that pay for abortion on demand, including a national plan that will be operated directly by the federal government," said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. "This is Condition Red for the pro-life movement. Every pro-life American should communicate, loudly and clearly, his or her opposition to this Obama-backed bill, before it comes to the House floor in September."

In the Senate, the White House is backing a bill, the "Affordable Health Choices

Act" (as yet unnumbered), which was approved on July 15 by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee on a 13-10 party line vote. The committee voted down all pro-life amendments, including an amendment offered by pro-life Senator Tom Coburn (R-Ok.) to prevent health care providers from being penalized for refusing to participate in providing abortions.

"The bill approved by the Senate HELP Committee would result in the greatest expansion of abortion since Roe v. Wade," said NRLC's Johnson. "It would result in federally mandated coverage of abortion by nearly all health plans, federally mandated recruitment of abortionists by local health networks, and nullification of many state abortion laws. It would also result in federal funding of abortion on a massive scale."

Meanwhile, behind closed doors, members of the Senate Finance Committee are trying to write a third health care bill that could be very different from the HELP Committee bill and from H.R. 3200. It is not yet known when the product of these negotiations will be released for public inspection, or what abortion-related provisions it will contain.

Obtaining broad federal subsidies for abortion as part of "health care reform" is currently the top priority of many pro-abortion organizations, such as the Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA). These organizations are pushing for the abortion mandates both in public statements and in less visible lobbying efforts. In April, the president of PPFA said that her organization intends to use the health care legislation as a "platform" to guarantee "access" to abortion to "all women." Likewise, the National Abortion Federation, an association of abortion providers, said, "NAF supports health care reform as a way to increase access to comprehensive reproductive health care, including abortion care, for all women."

On July 17, 2007, during Barack Obama's campaign for the Democratic presidential nomination, he appeared before the annual conference of the Planned Parenthood Action Fund. Speaking of his plans for "health care reform," Obama said, "in my mind, reproductive care is essential care. It is basic care, and so it is at the center and at the heart of the plan that I propose." He stated that, "What we're doing is to say that we're gonna set up a public plan that all persons and all women can access if they don't have health insurance. It'll be a plan that will provide all essential services, including reproductive services." Under his plan, Obama explained, people could choose to keep their existing private health care plans, but "insurers are going to have to abide by the same rules in terms of providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care ... that's going to be absolutely vital." (You can view a video of Obama's remarks [here](#).)

To view or download a two-page summary of key points, click [here](#) (PDF file). To view or download a detailed memorandum issued by NRLC on August 13, documenting the pro-abortion effects of the bills and of the Capps Amendment, click [here](#) (PDF file). To view a memorandum explaining why the current law called the Hyde Amendment will not prevent government funding of abortion under H.R. 3200, click [here](#). To view a memorandum rebutting the myth that only "private" funds would be used to pay for the abortions, click [here](#).

What You Can Do Now

* Please take a few minutes to use the form which is linked to in the red paragraph immediately preceding the WASHINGTON dateline above. Please

send messages to your two U.S. senators and to your representative in the U.S. House of Representatives, to urge them to oppose the health care bills backed by the White House because they would create a new government insurance plan that would cover abortion, and would provide subsidies to private health plans that provide abortions. You can modify the suggested message as you see fit. When you fill in your mailing address, your messages will automatically be directed to the appropriate U.S. House member and to your two U.S. senators.

* In addition, please TELEPHONE the offices of your two U.S. senators, give your name and address, and tell the senators' staff persons that you wish to be recorded as "opposed to the Affordable Health Choices Act, approved by the HELP Committee, because it would create a new government insurance plan that would cover abortion, and would also result in mandates for most private health plans to cover abortion." The offices of any U.S. senator can be reached through 202-224-3121. Also, please TELEPHONE the office of your U.S. House member, give your name and address, and inform the staff person that you wish to be recorded as "opposed to the health bill backed by the White House, H.R. 3200, because it would create a government health plan that would cover abortion, and because it would provide massive subsidies that could be used to purchase private health insurance plans that cover abortion." You can reach any U.S. House member's office through 202-225-3121. You can also find the direct-dial numbers (and fax numbers) for the Washington and in-state offices of your U.S. senators and U.S. House member by calling up their individual profiles on this website, [here](#).

* Also, please send short letters to the "letters to the editor" features of your local newspapers, in order to alert your fellow pro-life citizens to the pro-abortion policies that the Obama White House and the pro-abortion lobby are trying to smuggle into law through "health care reform." You can find contact information for your local news media in our "Media Guide" [here](#).

* If you are able, click [here](#) to donate to support the efforts of National Right to Life in opposition to pro-abortion health care legislation.

email: info@okforlife.org
phone: 918-749-5022
web: <http://www.OkForLife.org>

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