



(202) 626-8820

July 29, 2009

H.R. 3200: Stupak Amendments on abortion

Dear Member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce:

This is to express the strong opposition of the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) to the Tri-Committee health care legislation, H.R. 3200. **In its current form, this bill would predictably result in the greatest expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*.**

The bill contains provisions that would result in federal mandates requiring inclusion of elective abortion in virtually all health insurance plans, both private plans (including those that would be required to conform to federal standards in order to participate in the government-operated Exchange), and the new "public plan." Other provisions would result in health networks being required to establish new abortion providers in order to provide local access to elective abortions. **These results can be prevented only by adoption of an amendment to explicitly exclude abortion from the scope of all of the bill's provisions dealing with minimum benefits and related mandates. Mr. Stupak will offer such an amendment, and we urge your support.**

In addition, the bill would result in federal subsidies for elective abortion. Some advocates for the bill have suggested that the Hyde Amendment would prevent this result, but this is untrue. The Hyde Amendment is not a government-wide law. Nor is it a permanent law, but merely a "limitation amendment" on the annual appropriations bill for Health and Human Services; it will lapse in any year in which a bill to renew it fails to garner both the approval of Congress and the President's signature. Moreover, H.R. 3200 directly appropriates massive subsidies for premiums and cost-sharing that would not flow through the annual Health and Human Services appropriations bill and thus would not be subject to the Hyde Amendment. **The only way to prevent this bill from creating federal subsidies for elective abortion is to add Hyde-type language to the bill itself, and Mr. Stupak intends to offer such an amendment at the markup. Unless this Stupak amendment is adopted, a vote for H.R. 3200 is a vote for tax-subsidized abortion on demand.**

Please do not be confused by recent public calls by Congressman Tim Ryan to insert so-called "common ground" language on abortion into H.R. 3200. This is merely a "false flag" ploy by the abortion lobby, put forward by a lawmaker who on July 7 voted, in the Appropriations Committee, to repeal the longstanding ban on funding elective abortions with congressionally appropriated funds in the District of Columbia. Don't be fooled. Unless the two Stupak amendments described above are adopted, we strongly urge you to vote against H.R. 3200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Douglas Johnson".

Douglas Johnson
Legislative Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan T. Muskett".

Susan T. Muskett, J.D.
Senior Legislative Counsel