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October 6, 2011

RE: Protect Life Act (H.R. 358)

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the nationwide federation of right to life organizations, urges your support for the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358) when that measure comes before the House of Representatives on or about October 13, 2011.

In 2010, Congress narrowly enacted, over NRLC's objections, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA, Public Law 111-148). That law contained multiple provisions that provide authorizations for subsidies for abortion, both implicit and explicit, and also multiple provisions that opened doors to abortion-expanding administrative actions. Regrettably, the enacted PPACA lacked effective, bill-wide language to prevent subsidies for abortion, such as the House of Representatives had earlier attached to its version of health care restructuring legislation (the Stupak-Pitts Amendment). H.R. 358, sponsored by Congressman Joe Pitts, would apply the pro-life principles of the Hyde Amendment to every component of the PPACA, and contains important conscience protections for pro-life health care providers as well. NRLC's analysis of the need for the Protect Life Act, including detailed discussion of the abortion-related implications of the PPACA, is found in testimony presented before the Subcommittee on Health of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on February 9, 2011, posted at <http://www.nrlc.org/AHC/ProtectLifeActDouglasJohnsonTestimony.pdf>.

Additional documentation regarding the abortion-expanding components of the PPACA:
<http://www.nrlc.org/AHC/DvSBA/GenericAffidavitOfDouglasJohnsonNRLC.pdf>

NRLC intends to include the roll call on passage of H.R. 358 in its scorecard of key pro-life roll calls of the 112th Congress. In addition, NRLC reserves the right to score roll calls on any amendments or motions intended to weaken or sidetrack the bill.

Thank you for your consideration of NRLC's position on this important pro-life legislation.

Respectfully,

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

Douglas Johnson
Legislative Director