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Pro-Life Wisconsin



Monday Update

November 23, 2009

Defending God's Plan

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Senate passes motion to begin debate on health care bill

On Saturday night the United States Senate approved a motion to commence official debate on the Senate health care bill unveiled by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid a few days earlier – **a government-run health care bill that will allow for massive federal funding of abortions**. It does not contain the Stupak Amendment or any other restriction on federal funding of abortion. The party-line vote to support cloture (end debate) on the Motion to Proceed passed 60 to 39. Sixty Democrats voted to break the Republican filibuster.

Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky indicated the best way to change the bill is to stall it. "The best opportunity to change the bill would be at the beginning," McConnell said. "Denying the majority leader the vote he needs to start the bill would have empowered any Democratic senator who is truly interested in making a change, whether the change was on abortion [or other issues] ... The time of maximum leverage would have been prior to tonight's vote." (LifeNews, Nov. 21, 2009)

The new, 2,000-page Senate bill establishes the public option and authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to cover all abortions under the public option (page 118, section 1303 under "Voluntary Choice of Coverage of Abortion Services"). All enrollees in the public option will be charged a monthly abortion premium that will be paid into the U.S Treasury account to pay for abortion services (page 122, section 1303 under "Actuarial Value of Optional Service Coverage"). The bill also creates "affordability credits" (government subsidies to purchase private insurance coverage) that can be used to buy private insurance plans that pay for abortions.

Senator Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) plans to offer an amendment similar to the Stupak language that bans federal funding of abortion except in the cases of rape, incest, and the life of the mother. It is unlikely that Hatch will garner the 60 votes needed to move past a pro-abortion filibuster of his amendment.


Pro-Life Wisconsin opposes the entire Senate health care bill, not only because of the abortion funding but also the certainty of rationed care for the elderly, end-of-life concerns, massive funding of abortifacient birth control, and lack of conscience protections for pharmacists and pharmacies.

TAKE ACTION NOW!

Please **contact Senator Russ Feingold and Senator Herb Kohl** and tell them to **vote NO** on the Senate health care bill. The bill's massive funding of abortion will cause millions more preborn children to perish.

Senator Feingold: PH: (202) 224-5323

WEB: <http://kohl.senate.gov/contact.cfm>



Senator Kohl: PH: (202) 224-5653

WEB: http://feingold.senate.gov/contact_opinion.html

Thank you!

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