

Pro-Life Wisconsin



Defending them all...

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Obama breaks promise to block federal funding of abortion

President's health care reform proposal subsidizes plans that cover abortions

In a September 2009 nationally-televised speech, President Obama promised Congress and the American people that “no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions, and federal conscience laws will remain in place.” But under the President’s new health care reform proposal, federal tax dollars *will* subsidize private insurance plans (and some federally administered plans) that offer abortion coverage, and government entities or programs *will not* be explicitly prohibited from discriminating against health care providers of conscience who refuse to participate in the killing of preborn children.

As reported in the *Washington Examiner*, President Obama and his staff have met at least four times with Planned Parenthood President Cecile Richards since January of 2009. In stark contrast, the President has not reached out to Representative Bart Stupak and other pro-life House Democrats in the last four months. It is clear that Obama is a tool of the abortion industry and would rather scuttle health care reform than give in to the demands of pro-life congressmen.

The new Obama health care proposal is the Senate-passed bill warmed over. It not only leaves intact the current Senate bill language funding abortions, it makes matters worse. It dramatically increases funding (by 11 billion dollars) for “community health centers” which will include Planned Parenthood abortion mills, with no restriction on the use of this federal money to pay directly for abortions. In a recent Quinnipiac poll, 67% of Americans said they oppose the inclusion of taxpayer-funded abortion in health care reform legislation.

There are more problems with Obama’s plan.

- The President’s proposal, as in the Senate-passed bill, empowers an unelected administrative agency (the Health Resources and Services Administration [HRSA]) to require private insurance plans to include abortion coverage as “preventive care.” If HRSA arbitrarily deems abortion “preventive care,” people will not be able to avoid paying for abortions.
- The President’s proposal and the Senate-passed bill establish an abortion tax. All individuals who are covered by plans in the insurance exchange that include elective abortion will be forced to write a separate premium check (or their employer on their behalf) toward an account that pays only for elective abortions, even if the employee never intends to have an abortion. That amount cannot be less than \$12.00 annually. Many individuals will be unable to avoid this tax if their employers choose a plan that covers abortion.
- Provisions in the President’s proposal and the Senate-passed bill, including “comparative effectiveness research” and forcing Medicare payments below the rate of medical inflation, will likely lead to rationing of essential medical care for seriously ill and frail patients. Moreover, language in the President’s proposal would severely hamper, if not prohibit, individuals’ current ability to supplement their Medicare coverage by purchasing Medicare Advantage Plans. Finally, there is no explicit ban on the use of federal funds for assisted suicide in either plan.

The problems described above are so egregious that the entire health care reform effort should be scrapped and begun anew.

According to Judie Brown, President of American Life League, the road to health care reform should be paved with Christ-centered principles, not Obama-centered. We could not agree more. Christ-centered principles foster an openness to, and protection for, human life from conception to natural death. Pro-Life Wisconsin proudly stands with American Life League in saying:

“NO to abortion; **NO** to contraception; **NO** to sterilization; **NO** to embryo destructive research; **NO** to euthanasia; **NO** to assisted suicide; and **NO** to health care rationing.”

Please pray fervently for the conversion of President Barack Obama, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to the side of life. Please also pray for courage for the moderate Democrat congressional members to stand up and oppose their radical leadership. We thank all of you who have called, emailed or visited your congressmen in the past eight months. May God, the Lord of Life, bless our efforts.