

Abortion Mandates in Obamacare Must be Removed

Press Conference
Excerpts by Rep. Chris Smith
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Last week, dedicated pro-life Members of Congress offered pro-life amendments to the Tri-Committee bill in two of the three Committees of jurisdiction.

Mark Souder offered an amendment to prevent the abortion mandate and an amendment to prevent abortion subsidies in the Education and Labor Committee.

In the Ways and Means Committee Eric Cantor offered an amendment on funding and Sam Johnson offered an amendment on mandates against the abortion mandate. These courageous and principled colleagues should be commended for the voice that they gave to the unborn who are put in grave risk by the proposed legislation.

However, each of these amendments failed although in every case, they garnered the support of pro-life Members on both sides of the aisle.

Now only one Committee remains, and I am proud to stand here with Representatives Pitts and Stupak who will be leading the charge in the Energy and Commerce Committee. The Committee has taken a break from marking up legislation while Chairman Waxman and President Obama work to gather the support necessary to pass the bill in the Committee. This pause a good idea, and I hope that the leadership will rethink the rush to pass this bill before the upcoming work period.

Why the rush to enact Mr. Obama's exceedingly expensive, complex and potentially ruinous health care restructuring plan without the benefit of comprehensive hearings on and a through vetting of the actual bill text?

Obamacare is the greatest threat ever to the lives and wellness of unborn children and their mothers since Roe v. Wade was rendered in 1973.

Despite Mr. Obama's statement to the Pope last week that he wants to reduce abortion, the ugly truth is that his so-called health care reform bill, if enacted, will lead to millions of additional dead children and wounded mothers. Even the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute has found that 20%-35% of Medicaid eligible women who would chose abortion carry their pregnancies to term when public funds are not available.

Government funding, facilitation, promotion and mandates will cause abortion rates to skyrocket.

Obamacare opens the spigot of public funding and does more to facilitate abortion than any action since Roe. This is the big one!

Despite the fact that the majority of Americans don't want to fund abortion, the Obama/Dingell/Kennedy bill will nevertheless force every taxpayer and premium payer in the United States to pay for and facilitate every abortion in the country.

Obamacare will absolutely mandate abortion on demand, even in private insurance plans—which will lead to many more abortions and is a reversal of current policy.

On April 2, Secretary Sebelius said “most private plans do not cover abortion services except in limited instances.”

That radically changes under the Obamacare abortion mandates.

The legislation vests new, huge, sweeping powers in an Obama-appointed committee tasked with establishing “essential health benefits” that all plans must include.

NARAL's president said, “if indeed we can advance a panel or commission, then I'm very optimistic about reproductive health care being part of the entire package.”

Unless the legislation explicitly excludes abortion by amendment, abortion will be forced on every health plan in America.

In 2007, Mr. Obama told Planned Parenthood that “reproductive care is essential care...insurers are going to have to abide by the same rules by providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care...” An Obama spokesman told the Chicago Tribune this meant abortion.

On April 22, in response to question I posed, Secretary Clinton said ‘reproductive health includes access to abortion.’”

Pro-abortion organizations believe they are on the verge of the biggest expansion of abortion ever.

The President of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice said, “Let there be no mistake, basic healthcare includes abortion service.”

There's another egregious flaw in the bill.

Obamacare will also exponentially expand the number of abortion mills in the country by requiring that any insurance provider must contract with “essential community providers, as specified by the Commissioner.”

In other words, all health insurance companies will be compelled by the Obamacare to contract with abortion clinics or simply not be certified to do business.

Planned Parenthood, an organization that aborted over 305,000 children in 2007 alone, launched a multimedia blitz on June 17th, billing itself as an “essential community health care provider.”

To mandate, facilitate, market and massively fund the killing of unborn children will lead to a staggering loss of children’s lives who otherwise would have been born.