

STOP THE ABORTION MANDATE

PREVENT WASHINGTON D.C. BUREAUCRATS AND ABORTION INDUSTRY
LOBBYISTS FROM FORCING YOU TO PAY FOR ABORTIONS

AUGUST RECESS ACTION TOOLKIT

Your Senators and Congressmen are home in their districts all throughout August holding town hall meetings and meeting with constituents to talk about the most pressing issues facing their districts and the country - the most important being healthcare.

Here's your chance to make your voice heard and hold your elected representatives accountable for the laws they pass in Washington, DC which directly affect you and your family.

This August Recess Action toolkit is designed to give you all the information you need to help stop the abortion mandate in your state. Use this kit to meet with your elected officials at their district offices, confront officials at town hall meetings, and write Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper.

Visit www.stoptheabortionmandate.com for more information.

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PRO-LIFE HEALTHCARE MESSAGING

- Government-Run Health Care = Mandated taxpayer-funded abortion.
- A cornerstone of the Freedom of Choice Act will be a direct mandate under the new healthcare plan, forcing Americans to subsidize abortions.
- Under the healthcare plan, virtually every American will eventually be in a plan that includes abortion by requiring individuals to buy health insurance that meets minimum benefits standards determined by unelected government bureaucrats.
- If the law does not clearly state that abortion is excluded, abortion automatically becomes a minimum required benefit.
- It is extremely unfortunate that at a time when American taxpayers are trying to stretch their dollar as far as possible as their jobs are lost, homes are foreclosed, food prices rise and the economy continues to decline, President Obama and abortion industry allies in Congress would mandate taxpayer funding of abortion.
- President Obama and liberals in Congress say they want health care reform, but they are using health reform as a way to ram through taxpayer funded abortion. Pro-abortion groups such as Planned Parenthood and NARAL have admitted they hope to mandate "access" to abortion for "all women" through national health care reform legislation.
- Abortion is not healthcare, as the pro-abortion organizations would like Americans to believe, and it should not be mandated under any health insurance plan, especially one that Americans will be forced to subsidize.
- Specific language must be written into the healthcare bill that excludes taxpayer funds from paying for abortions.

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TOP 5 HEALTHCARE BILL MYTHS

MYTH #1: *The abortion mandate is an email rumor; the word “abortion” does not appear in any of the major health care bills currently pending in the House and Senate.*

FACT: The abortion mandate is very real. The absence of the word abortion is *very reason* why the proposed legislation will mandate abortion on virtually every American health care plan. For example, look no further than the federal Medicaid statute which does not mention the word abortion, yet Medicaid funded as many as 300,000 abortions per year prior to enactment of the Hyde amendment.

MYTH #2: *The Obama administration doesn’t want to change the status quo with regard to abortion. They will not allow an abortion mandate.*

FACT: The President himself said that reproductive care is at the heart of his health care plan.¹ And Hilary Clinton has confirmed that the administration considers abortion to be part of reproductive health. More recently Office of Budget and Management Chief Peter Orszag told "FOX News Sunday" on July 19, 2009 that it is not "prepared to rule [taxpayer funded abortion] out" of the healthcare legislation.²

MYTH #3: *The courts can’t mandate abortion coverage if abortion isn’t even written into the health bill.*

FACT: In the mid-1990s the Hyde amendment was adjusted to no longer ban Medicaid abortion funding in cases of rape and incest abortion. Even though the Medicaid statute didn’t refer directly to abortion, they reverted to the assumed mandate that abortion would be covered. States that tried to refuse to pay for rape and incest abortions, were overruled by courts that said because abortion falls under broad categories of care in the Medicaid statute, states must fund abortion even if it violates their individual state law.

MYTH #4: *The so-called "Hyde Amendment" restricts federal funds from paying for abortions through Medicaid and applies in the healthcare bill.*

FACT: Actually the health care overhaul bypasses the Hyde amendment. But even if it didn’t, we cannot be fooled by this pro-abortion “two-step.” If the Hyde amendment did apply it would still be subject to *annual* re-approval. Significant portions of the proposed legislation are not subject to the Hyde amendment.

MYTH #5: *Proposed legislation maintains the status quo, but pro-life amendments go further than current law.*

FACT: Permanent abortion funding bans are contained in other health care laws including Department of Defense health care coverage and the Children’s Health Insurance Plan.

If Representatives and Senators oppose taxpayer funding for abortion or plans that cover abortion, it only follows that such an explicit provision must be contained in the healthcare bill.

¹ Senator Obama: “Well, look, in my mind reproductive care is essential care, basic care so it is at the center, the heart of the plan that I propose.” <http://groups.google.com/group/talk.politics.misc/msg/d79cdf2ea46f4f79>

² <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdbL45Nq6ag>

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What to Ask Your Representative at a Townhall or Personal Meeting

- 1) My family is struggling to pay the bills just like many other families here in this tough economy. Now you and your colleagues and Congress want to tax my family even more to pay for the healthcare bill. But that's not even the worst of it for us, the majority of this country, who are pro-life. The current legislation uses my tax dollars to pay for abortion.

My question for you: Will you oppose any will oppose any healthcare bill that uses tax dollars to pay for abortions?

- 2) President Obama has specifically said that the "chronically ill and those toward the end of their lives are accounting for potentially 80 percent of the total health care bill" and therefore there will have to be some kind of "difficult" and "democratic conversation" that will take place to give "guidance" as to what patients will receive life-sustaining, and expensive, treatment.

My question for you: How does what the President has said not promote rationing of care? And who will decide who gets what expensive treatments and who doesn't?

- 3) Current proposals provide for seniors, every five years, to be provided "advance care planning consultation" for "end-of-life services." House Minority Leader John A. Boehner of Ohio and Republican Rep. Thaddeus McCotter of Michigan warn that the provision "may start us down a treacherous path toward government-encouraged euthanasia."

My question for you: Would you support a bill where government bureaucrats get to decide to lives and who dies based on cost? Or what about a bill that mandates counselors advocate assisted-suicide over expensive treatments in order to save money?

- 4) It took President Obama nearly four months to choose his dog. The President has asked Congress to push through healthcare in the same time frame. A dog doesn't cost over a trillion in 10 years and care of one isn't 1/7th of the nation's economy.

My question for you: First, did you read the 1000+ page bill? Two, will you read it before you vote on it? And three, don't you think it should take longer to craft significant legislation than it does to pick out a dog?

- 5) Our nation is founded on the principles of the First Amendment and the right to practice freedom of religion. For many doctors, nurses and other professionals, performing an abortion is a grave issue that violates their conscience. We need these doctors - may work at our nation's hospitals and have private practices in our communities. If there aren't any provisions to protect these doctors, we are in danger of losing a significant amount of accessibility to care should these doctors close their doors rather than provide abortions.

My question for you: Would you oppose a bill that did not include specific conscience protections for those healthcare professionals who choose not to perform or refer for abortions based upon their moral values?

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TOP 10 MEETING TIPS³

1. **Be Prepared.** Most people don't present their Member of Congress with a well-researched, well-rehearsed pitch. Those who come to town hall meetings with thoughtful arguments, good data, and persuasive stories always get remembered.
2. **Tell a Personal Story.** This is why Members of Congress hold town hall meetings – to get first-hand accounts of the impact of policies on their constituents. Think in advance of how a policy might affect you, your family, your business, or your community.
3. **Use Numbers If You Have Them.** Politicians live for one thing: 50% plus 1. This keeps them re-elected and in a job. Nearly every person to come before a Member of Congress represents more constituents either by a class or as a spokesperson. Use these numbers. “I have 50 employees,” “I represent 100 people in my union,” “There are 500 people in my community that think just like me.”
4. **Be Respectful.** You'd be surprised how many people start a conversation with “I pay your salary so you better listen to me.” It doesn't matter if you're talking to your grocer or a public official - starting any conversation with another person in a rude manner is no way to persuade them.
5. **Go in Groups.** Nothing says “listen to me” to a public official like a group of people. A chorus is better than a solo performance.
6. **Talk to Staff.** Every congressman brings staff to town hall meetings. They may seem to blend into the woodwork, but a sharp citizen seeks them out. Talk to them before the meeting, get their business card, and tell them your story (as well as asking a public question at the meeting).
7. **Leave Paper.** Town hall meetings are usually staffed by district-office staff who do not deal with legislative issues on a daily basis. If you leave background memos or talking points, they'll likely be faxed to Washington to the legislative assistant who covers your issue.
8. **Follow-up Politely.** Politely persistent people persuade politicians. The squeaky wheel gets the grease- follow up with a phone call after attending a town hall meeting.
9. **Get People to Multiple Meetings.** This is a sure bet to get noticed. Hearing the same thing in different places signals to a politician there may be a deeper problem afoot.
10. **Demonstrate You're Not Going Away.** If you continue to show your presence at town hall meetings, the legislator must deal with you...if only to avoid an uncomfortable encounter at a future town hall meeting.

Finally, do not underestimate the power of raising a question at a public meeting and getting a public official on the record. If a Member of Congress says to a constituent in public setting, “I'll look into it,” I guarantee you the issue immediately goes to the top of some staffers to-do list. Politicians are terrified of being accused of not following through on a promise. And a Member of Congress making a pledge to a constituent at a town hall meeting is one of the biggest promises they can make.

³ Brad Fitch, CEO Knowlegis, part of the Capitol Advantage family of companies. Knowlegis researches and provides data on upcoming congressional town hall meetings

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SAMPLE LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Like many families across the country, my own family is struggling to make ends meet, pay the bills and fill up the car with gas. Now President Obama wants to tax my family even more to pay for the trillion-dollar healthcare bill. But that's not the worst of it. He is mandating that abortion be covered under the healthcare plan, meaning that my family will be paying for abortions, whether we want to or not.

Whether or not I am pro-life or pro-choice is irrelevant. Abortion does not fall under the guise of healthcare and is not a right. I believe it is my choice to decide whether or not I should be funding abortion and whether or not I should be forced to fund it under bureaucrat-run healthcare. Tell Congress to vote against any proposal that forces Americans to pay for abortion.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

I thought that the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was not going to happen and that taxpayers would not be forced to fund abortions. However, the abortion lobby has found a way to get the cornerstone issue of FOCA passed - they're trying to get taxpayers to fund abortions through the proposed healthcare reform bills.

There are no provisions explicitly stating that abortions should not be funded by taxpayers in the healthcare bill. That means that you and I will be forced to pay for abortions.

Not only that, FOCA wanted to mandate that abortion be covered under all healthcare plans. Guess what is in the proposed healthcare bill now? That's right -abortion is now a mandate and would be covered by all health insurance.

I don't want to be forced to subsidize abortions and I don't think the government has the right to force its citizens to pay for such a procedure. Tell Congress to vote against any healthcare reform bill if abortion is not explicitly excluded.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

Under the healthcare plan, virtually every American will eventually be forced into a plan that mandates abortion by requiring individuals to buy health insurance that meets minimum benefits standards determined by unelected government bureaucrats. If the law does not clearly state that abortion is excluded, abortion automatically becomes a minimum required benefit.

Americans don't support this and don't support paying for abortions. The proposed healthcare bill amounts to a bailout for the abortion industry, which is swimming in profits already. Taxpayers should not be forced to subsidize this controversial industry.

Since abortion is mandated in the healthcare bill, every insurance plan will have to cover it and provide means necessary to obtain an abortion.

Tell Congress to vote no on any healthcare bill that does not include language to explicitly exclude abortion. No one should be forced to pay for abortions.

Sincerely,