

Roe v. Wade: The Sequel by Ashley Horne

While pieces of the current healthcare plan being considered by Congress might seem confusing, there's one piece that's crystal clear: abortion funding. The healthcare proposals making their way through the House and the Senate both include funding for abortion and abortion providers—the most sweeping federal expansion of abortion since *Roe v. Wade*. Period.

But you won't hear that from the bill's supporters. Case in point: Senator Michael Bennet (D-Colorado), responded to a constituent concerned about the government funding of abortion this way:

Currently, there is no legislation before the Senate that would expand the use of federal funds to perform abortion beyond the laws that are already in place.

Wrong.

Beware of semantic tricks like this from your Congressional lawmakers. Bennet is correct that the Senate's healthcare proposal does not *specifically* mandate abortion coverage. But here's what he won't tell you: anytime Congress fails to exclude federal funding for abortions, it is always included.

Skeptical? Here's an example. For 13 years, no tax dollars have been used for abortions in the District of Columbia (with rare exceptions), because each year, pro-life lawmakers *specifically excluded* abortion funding in D.C.'s spending bill. This year, that provision was removed by Democrats, to the sheer delight of pro-abortion groups like Planned Parenthood. So guess what? Without a specific restriction on abortion funding, the District of Columbia will use your tax dollars to pay for abortions.

And once the abortion-funding horse is out of the barn, it ain't going back in.

The healthcare proposal bypasses the traditional channel by which pro-life Members of Congress have been able to exclude abortion funding from spending bills. That means—barring another major act of Congress—the healthcare bill will fund abortion-on-demand without end in sight.

So it doesn't take a political rocket scientist to know that any healthcare proposal that does not specifically exclude abortion coverage will—particularly under a Congress controlled by Democrats—absolutely and unequivocally pay for the practice.

For those who remain unconvinced, let's look at what abortion supporters have said about including abortions in healthcare--under the name "reproductive health," of course.

President Obama on July 17, 2007: "...Insurers are going to have to abide by the same rules in terms of providing comprehensive care, including reproductive care...that's going to be absolutely vital."

Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, April 22, 2009: "Reproductive health includes access to abortion...We are now an Administration that will protect the rights of women, including their rights to reproductive health care."

Planned Parenthood, April 30, 2009: "I think the big picture here is how do we make sure that all women and families, regardless of their income, can get access to the full range of health care options, and I think health care reform is going to provide a platform for doing that."

Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice, July 1, 2009: "Let there be no mistake, basic healthcare includes abortion services."

Peter Orzag, White House budget director, July 20, 2009: [asked if he was prepared to say that no taxpayer money would go to pay for abortions] "I am not prepared to say explicitly that right now."

Here are the details of how the proposed plan will work. Virtually every American, through private or public coverage, will eventually be in a healthcare plan that must meet a "minimum benefits" standard. What will one of those minimum benefits be? Without a specific ban—abortion. And healthcare plans will be required to contract with government-approved "essential providers," like Planned Parenthood, to supply abortion services.

So what if my private healthcare plan has to contract with an abortion provider? I'm morally opposed to abortion but I won't directly pay for abortions, will I? Yes, you will.

Your private insurance premiums will fund abortions for those who choose to have them.

And, your tax dollars will fund abortions for those who use the government healthcare plan that includes abortions.

There's also one more major problem with the healthcare proposal in Congress. The proposal does not include conscience protections for healthcare professionals who refuse to participate in or perform abortions based on their religious convictions or moral conscience.

This means that doctors and other healthcare professionals will be forced to perform abortions or risk going out of business. According to one report, as many as 95% of faith-based physicians would stop practicing medicine rather than violate his or her conscience by performing an abortion. Not to mention that the hundreds of religious hospitals in all 50 states that oppose abortion may close rather than comply with the government abortion mandate, leaving many Americans without local hospital services.

But the healthcare proposal isn't signed, sealed and delivered. You still have time to oppose it. Call your U.S. senators and your representative and tell them to support the exclusion of abortion coverage from the healthcare plan and protect the freedom of conscience rights of healthcare professionals. And ask them to vote against any healthcare legislation that doesn't do that.

Nervous to contact your lawmaker? It's very simple. [Here are few tips.](#)