



November 19, 2009

United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of families we represent, I am writing to urge you to vote against cloture on the motion to proceed to Senator Reid's health care reform bill. The bill does not contain the important, pro-life, Stupak amendment language passed by the House, language that is vital to protecting the preborn.

Focus on the Family Action will score a vote in favor of cloture on the motion to proceed to debate on the Senate health care bill as a vote supporting federal funding for abortion.

The Stupak amendment states that "no [federal] funds may be used to pay for abortion or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion," except in limited circumstances. The amendment does not prohibit individuals from purchasing separate, supplemental coverage for abortions so long as no federal funds are used.

This language simply maintains the status quo on government funding of abortion. Since 1976, Congress has annually passed the Hyde Amendment, which prevents federal funds from being used to pay for abortions under Medicaid, except in limited cases. The Stupak language is needed in Senator Reid's health care bill because the Hyde Amendment does not apply to the new programs created under his health care reform proposal.

While America's health care system may need reforming, government funding of abortion has no place in any reform proposal and will only serve to increase the rate of abortions in America. Advocates of abortion claim they want to make the procedure "rare," but the history of Medicaid funding shows that without a specific restriction on government funding of abortion, there is a marked increase in abortions performed.

The Senate vote on health care reform will be one of the most important votes on federal funding of abortion since Congress first voted on the Hyde Amendment. I urge you to oppose cloture on the motion to proceed to the Reid health care reform proposal. Any health care reform proposed by Congress must, at a minimum, include the Stupak pro-life amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Minnery".

Tom Minnery
Senior Vice President
Government and Public Policy
Focus on the Family