



For Immediate Release
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During Speech, President Misrepresents Abortion in Reform

Louisiana Right to Life calls on President and Congress to Explicitly Exclude Abortion

New Orleans, LA- During President Obama's address to Congress on health care reform Wednesday evening, the President stated: "One more misunderstanding I want to clear up -- under our plan, no federal dollars will be used to fund abortions."

Benjamin Clapper, Executive Director of Louisiana Right to Life, stated the following on Thursday morning, "Unfortunately, President Obama did not accurately depict the situation of abortion funding in health care reform legislation. Not only do pro-life organizations across the country disagree with his statement, but his asseration directly opposes what outlets such as the New York Times, FactCheck.org, and the Associated Press have stated: the federal government would fund abortion in all current health care reform proposals."

Clapper continued, "However, since the President seems to believe his plan does not federally fund abortion, then we believe he should have no problem supporting the pro-life community's efforts to explicitly exclude abortion funding. If the President **really** wants to put this "misunderstanding" to rest, he can do so by supporting the explicit exclusion of government funding of abortion in any legislation."

"We continue to ask our Congressional Delegation, especially Senator Landrieu, to oppose health care reform unless abortion funding and mandates are explicitly excluded from any reform legislation," Clapper finished.

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Louisiana Right to Life Federation (LARTL), established in 1970, works through education and legislation to restore the right to life in Louisiana by opposing abortion, euthanasia, and other life destroying actions.

Please see attached factsheet showing how abortion is currently funded through all health care reform legislation. Contact us for a detailed Health Care Reform Fact Sheet presented by National Right to Life Committee that provides additional documentation.

Recent Media Reports on Abortion in Health Care:

NyTimes: <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/10/us/politics/10truth.html>

FactCheck.org: <http://www.factcheck.org/2009/08/abortion-which-side-is-fabricating/>

AP: <http://apnews.myway.com/article/20090805/D99SUC000.html>



FACT SHEET



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Five Reasons Health Care Reform DOES Fund Abortion

Louisiana Right to Life Federation provides five reasons ***abortion IS federally funded under all current forms of health care reform:***

1. ***The Hyde Amendment Does NOT Apply:*** Simply put, the Hyde Amendment, originally adopted in 1976, is a limitation attached to the annual budget of Medicaid that prevents the funding of abortion in Medicaid. The Hyde Amendment is not a government-wide policy, and since reform legislation establishes new funding streams, the Hyde Amendment does not apply.
2. ***The Media Says So Themselves:*** An AP story dated August 5 entitled “Gov’t Insurance would Allow Coverage for Abortion” accurately states the scenario:

A law called the Hyde Amendment applies the restrictions to Medicaid ... *The health overhaul would create a stream of federal funding not covered by the restrictions.* [E.A.]

In addition, a FactCheck.org article from August 21 entitled “Abortion: Which Side is Fabricating” stated, “*Despite what Obama said, the House bill would allow abortions to be covered by a federal plan and by federally subsidized private plans.*”
3. ***Pro-Life Amendments Defeated in Committee:*** In both the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Senate HELP Committee, ALL pro-life amendments explicitly excluding abortion funding have been defeated.
4. ***H.R. 3200 Directly Includes Abortion:*** The Capps Amendment to H.R. 3200, passed in the House Energy and Commerce Committee on July 30, *added abortion to the bill* by explicitly sanctioning the public plan to cover all elective abortions and allowing federal subsidies to help the purchasing of private plans covering abortion.
5. ***“Not Excluded” means “Included”:*** When Roe v. Wade made abortion legal in 1973, a Medicaid panel declared abortion an “essential benefit” covered through Medicaid. Congress did not have to sanction the inclusion of abortion. Therefore, federal funding of abortion was not restricted until Congress explicitly excluded it with the Hyde Amendment in 1976. Even if abortion is not “written” into reform legislation as the Capps Amendment does in H.R. 3200, government panels would later include abortion as an “essential benefit.”

As indicated clearly from the points above, unless amendments (similar to Hyde) that explicitly exclude abortion coverage are passed, reform legislation would sanction the government funding of abortion for the first time in this country since 1976.

Louisiana Right to Life Federation asks Louisiana’s Congressional Delegation to vote “no” on health care reform legislation that does not explicitly exclude abortion funding and mandates.



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-- Updated: August 25, 2009
-- Contact us for a detailed Health Care Reform Fact Sheet that provides additional documentation of the above points.

What Does the Media Say about Abortion in Health Care Reform?



Gov't Insurance Would Allow Coverage for Abortion

“A law called the Hyde amendment applies the restrictions to Medicaid, forcing states that cover abortion for low-income women to do so with their own money... But the health overhaul would create a stream of federal funding not covered by the restrictions.” *Associated Press; By RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR; August 5, 2009*



Abortion: Which Side Is Fabricating?

“Despite what Obama said, the House bill would allow abortions to be covered by a federal plan and by federally subsidized private plans.” *FactCheck.org; August 21, 2009*



How Abortion Could Imperil Health-Care Reform

“The health-care reform proposed by House Democrats, if enacted, would in fact mark a significant change in the Federal Government's role in the financing of abortions.”
Time Magazine; By Michael Scherer; August 5, 2009



Louisiana Right to Life Federation
www.ProLifeLouisiana.org/Healthcare