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November 19, 2009

The Honorable Mary Landrieu
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Landrieu:

This is an updated letter from the letter we sent you on November 17. ***We still urge you to vote no on the 'motion to proceed' to Senator Reid's health care bill.***

As you know, the House of Representatives approved the Stupak-Pitts Amendment to H.R. 3962 by a bipartisan margin of 240-194. In fact, every member of the Louisiana delegation to the House of Representatives voted in favor of the Stupak-Pitts Amendment. The Stupak-Pitts Amendment protects H.R. 3962 from abortion funding by:

- Permanently prohibiting the new federal government insurance program, the "public option," from paying for abortion, except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest; and
- Permanently prohibiting the use of the new federal premium subsidies ("affordability credits") to purchase private insurance plans that cover abortion (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest).

Throughout your career, and as recently as the Town Hall in Reserve, you have stated that you oppose the federal funding of abortion. ***When it comes to health care reform legislation, language similar to the Stupak-Pitts Amendment is the only language that protects any health care reform legislation from allowing the federal funding of abortion.***

Unfortunately, Senator Reid's health care legislation introduced yesterday does not include the Stupak-Pitts language. Instead, the new bill authorizes the "public option" to fund abortion and allows federal subsidies to help purchase plans that cover abortion. Because of this, we are asking you to vote no on the 'motion to proceed' to Senator Reid's health care legislation.

If the 'motion to proceed' is granted and the Stupak-Pitts language is not present, then it will be virtually impossible to add this language on the Senate floor. ***Therefore, a vote for the 'motion to proceed' is a vote in favor of the federal funding of abortion.***

Again, we urge you to vote no on the 'motion to proceed' on Senator Reid's health care legislation.

Thank you for your consideration, and please inform us on where you stand on this issue.

Sincerely,

Sharon Ryan Rodi
Legislative Director

Benjamin Clapper
Executive Director

CC: Ms. Sarada Peri
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