

STOP THE ABORTION MANDATE

HOLIDAY RECESS ACTION TOOLKIT

Your Congressmen and Senators are home in their districts up through the second and third week in January. Please visit them at their district offices and urge them to not pass any healthcare bill that does not have the Stupak-Pitts pro-life language in it which explicitly excludes government funding of abortions in any new health care reform system.

This is your chance to make your voice heard and hold your elected representatives accountable for the laws they pass in Washington, D.C. which directly affect you and your family.



This Holiday Recess Action toolkit is designed to give you all the information you need to help stop the abortion mandate in your state.

Visit www.stoptheabortionmandate.com for more information.

Congressional District Office Visits

Steps and Tips for Success

1. **Locate** the local district office by visiting

<http://www.congressmerge.com/onlinedb/>

- a. Type in your state and zip code.
- b. Click on your Representative or Senator to get more information.

2. **Invite** people who know the issue and are affected by the issue to join you.

3. **Schedule** your visit

- Call the district office and ask to arrange a meeting with the member of Congress.
- Announce who you are, tell them your reason for the call (see sample script below) and the number of people who will attend the meeting.
- The district office may need a written request. Follow up with a call to confirm a date. Be persistent.
- If you are not able to meet with your Member of Congress, it can be valuable to meet with staff. You can also ask about opportunities to meet the Member of Congress at town hall meetings.

4. **Prepare** for your meeting.

- Know something about your Member of Congress' likely position on the issue.
- Review background on government funding of abortion (included below). Prepare a one-page summary (included below) of your position to leave with your Member of Congress.
- Think of questions and counterpoints that may come up and plan possible responses.
- Appoint someone to take notes during the meeting if traveling with a group.

5. **Meet** with your Member of Congress or staff person

- Dress appropriately and be on time.
- Explain who you are and why you are there. Discuss current healthcare legislation and ask them to only vote for legislation that has Stupak language in it and excludes government funding of abortion.
- Be polite and firm in explaining your position; avoid criticism.
- Use examples from your personal experience and be clear, concise, compelling and credible.
- Bring the conversation back to government funding of abortion if it goes off track.
- Ask what the Member's position is and ask what it would take to get her/him to vote against any piece of legislation that permits government funding of abortion.
- Record key points of the conversation and questions you can't answer; volunteer to find information and get back to your Member of Congress or staff.

6. Show your commitment

- Offer to answer any questions or follow-up with answers to questions.
- Follow-up with a short thank you note or letter within two days (see sample below).
- Provide your contact information should the district office need to reach you.

SAMPLE SCRIPTS

Meeting Request Via Phone Call

Hello my name is (your name). I am a constituent of (name your Senator or Representative).

I would like to set up a meeting with (Senator or Representative)* to discuss abortion coverage in the healthcare bill.

Is it possible to schedule a time to stop by and talk with (name of your Senator or Representative)?

Thank you.

**You may be scheduled to meet with an assistant.*

Thank You Note

(Date)

The Honorable (Senator/Representative name)

(Recipient address line 1)

(Recipient address line 2)

Dear Senator/Representative _____,

It was a pleasure to meet with you on (day of meeting). I appreciate you taking the time from your busy schedule to speak with me about the healthcare bill.

As we discussed, I am completely opposed to any bill that does include the Stupak language in it. Americans should not be forced to pay for insurance coverage that includes abortion on demand. Polls overwhelmingly support this position and it is a moral offense to force someone who believes that abortion is a grave evil to pay for such a procedure.

Thank you again for your time and I hope you have a good holiday season.

Sincerely,

Your name, telephone number, and email address

Government Funding of Abortion

One Page Summary

If the Senate healthcare bill is passes, it will be the largest expansion of abortion since Roe v. Wade.

- Please vote against any procedure or bill that does not include language identical to either the Nelson-Hatch or Stupak-Pitts Amendments, which prevent the government from funding abortion coverage.
- Abortion is not healthcare, as the abortion industry would like Americans to believe, and it should not be mandated under any health insurance plan, especially plans that Americans will be forced to subsidize.

Government-Run Health Care = a bailout of the abortion industry, mandated government-funded abortion, and forcing Americans to subsidize abortions.

- Americans don't want this. Recent [national polls](#) have all showed Americans don't support government-funded abortions by wide margins, over 70%.
- The federal government would subsidize the purchase of private health plans that cover elective abortion on demand -- departing from decades of federal policy, under which health plans that cover elective abortions (for example, those covering federal employees) are not eligible for federal subsidies.

The Stupak amendment does not change the status quo on abortion funding through the government; it IS the status quo. It mirrors the Hyde amendment which prevents the government from funding elective abortion.

- Senator Harry Reid has sought to please the abortion industry that demands funding of abortion through federal programs, even though [substantial majorities](#) of Americans believe that abortion should be excluded from government-funded and government-sponsored health programs.

The Nelson-Reid “[compromise](#)” is not acceptable because it allows the federal government to subsidize private health insurance plans that cover abortion, thus still allowing for government-funded abortions.

- The language allows states to opt out of abortion funding, but will force taxpayers to fund abortions in states that don't opt out.
- It adds further layers of accounting gimmicks that actually hide the backdoor way in which the government will fund abortions.

What to Ask Your Representative

- 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 government money and my tax dollars to pay for abortion coverage.

Will you oppose any will oppose any healthcare bill that uses tax dollars to subsidize plans that 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.

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 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."

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) Many Congressmen and Senators have admitted that they haven't read the bill and don't know what in it. Also, the leaders of the House and Senate are trying to ram this bill through their respective houses so fast that they aren't giving the public enough time to read the bill that is going to cost billions and billions of dollars and will take over 1/6th of our nation's economy.

First, did you read the 2000+ page bill? Two, will you read it before you vote on it?

- 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.

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?

Sample Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor:

Unless the final healthcare bill includes Stupak-like language, government subsidized insurance coverage for abortion is still a reality.

Abortion is not healthcare, as the abortion industry 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. The proposed healthcare bill amounts to a bailout for the abortion industry, which is swimming in profits already.

As it now stands, there will be private insurance options that will include abortions subsidized by the government.

Tell Congress to vote no on any healthcare bill that does not include Stupak language to explicitly exclude abortion from the healthcare bill.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

The trillion dollar healthcare bill does not explicitly exclude government-funded abortion coverage, unless the Senate adopts Stupak-like language.

Why should government money go to subsidize private insurance plans that pay for abortion when America is at an economic low? The government should use resources to create new jobs instead of paying for abortion coverage, under the guise of healthcare.

Tell Congress to vote against any proposal that allows for government subsidized abortions.

Sincerely,

Dear Editor:

The last thing America needs is another bailout, especially one with obscene profits like the abortion industry. But unless the final healthcare bill does not have an explicit exclusion of abortion, then the government is going to be bailing out the abortion industry.

The Stupak amendment in the House is the only provision explicitly stating that abortion coverage should not be funded by taxpayers in the healthcare bill. However, the Senate version still allows for massive taxpayer subsidies for insurance coverage that includes elective abortion as a covered benefit.

Tell Congress to vote against any healthcare reform bill in which abortion is not explicitly excluded. We don't need another bailout.

Sincerely,

General Questions & Answers on Abortion in Healthcare

Why would healthcare reform be, if it passes without a specific exclusion of abortion, the “largest expansion of abortion since Roe v. Wade”?

The (Senate) bill allows the federal government to subsidize private insurance plans that cover abortion on demand, to oversee multi-state plans that cover elective abortions, and to empower federal officials to mandate that private health plans cover abortions even if they do not accept subsidized enrollees. The Guttmacher Institute, the research arm of Planned Parenthood, even agrees that **decreased** public funding of abortion in Medicaid has been demonstrated to result in **25 percent fewer abortions in the covered population.**

The House and Senate have their own versions of the healthcare bill, right? Do either one of them have a specific exclusion of abortion?

Yes, there are two versions as of now but they will have to be combined in the end into one bill. The House bill contains “Stupak language”, which prohibits government funding of abortion, while the Senate version doesn’t have a specific exclusion of abortion.

Do Americans support government funding of abortion?

Not even close. The latest [national poll](#), this one from the non-partisan Quinnipiac University, shows 72-73% of Americans don’t want the government to pay for abortions.

What is the Stupak Amendment?

Congressman Bart Stupak, a pro-life Democrat from Michigan, introduced an amendment in the House that mirrors the Hyde Amendment (a long-standing policy that says the government won’t fund abortions) to be added to the House bill. He fought against his own pro-abortion leaning party to have his amendment voted on or else he would stop the healthcare bill, along with several of his pro-life Democrat colleagues. He was granted a vote and his amendment passed overwhelmingly, with 64 Democrats voting for it and against government funding of abortion.

Does the Stupak Amendment change the status quo? Some pro-choice groups are saying his amendment goes far beyond the Hyde Amendment and changes the status quo.

The Stupak amendment does not change the status quo on abortion funding through the government; it IS the status quo. It mirrors the Hyde amendment which prevents the government from funding elective abortion. The abortion industry is desperate to have the government fund encourage the most lucrative part of their business - doing abortions. Besides, President Obama, when he was campaigning, [promised](#) the abortion industry he’d make sure the government pays for “reproductive care”, which includes abortion.

Didn’t the Senate reach a compromise on abortion since Senators Ben Nelson (D-NE) and Bob Casey (D-PA) voted for the bill in the end, even though they are supposedly pro-life?

Both Senators took payoffs for their state, essentially bribes, to agree to a phony compromise by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. The compromise is much like the phony Capps Amendment in the House that sought to enact a bad bookkeeping scheme in order to keep federal and private

funds separate and pay for abortions that way. The Senate compromise also requires the federal government to pay premiums for private health plans that will cover any or all abortions.