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NEWS RELEASE

Reid Abortion-Funding Language is Completely Unacceptable

Must be Replaced with Stupak-Pitts Language

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Wisconsin Right to Life is joining with its parent organization, the National Right to Life Committee, in condemning Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's unacceptable language that would result in coverage of abortion on demand in two big new federal government programs.

"Not surprisingly, Reid is doing the bidding of the Obama White House and the radical pro-abortion movement who are demanding the funding of abortion through federal programs," said Susan Armacost, Legislative Director of Wisconsin Right to Life. "They do so in spite of the substantial majority of Americans who believe that abortion should be excluded from government-funded and government-sponsored health programs."

The Reid language closely mirrors pro-abortion funding language offered by Rep. Lois Capps and originally contained in the House bill. Capps has a 100% pro-abortion voting record. National Right to Life and Wisconsin Right to Life strongly opposed the Capps language which was deleted by the House by a vote of 240-194 on November 7, as 64 Democrats (one fourth of all House Democrats), along with 176 Republicans, voted to replace it with the Stupak-Pitts Amendment.

Douglas Johnson, Legislative Director of the National Right to Life Committee explained, "The Stupak-Pitts Amendment would prevent federal subsidies for abortion by applying the principles of longstanding federal laws such as the Hyde Amendment to the new programs created by the health care legislation. Those principles prohibit both direct funding of abortion procedures, and subsidies for plans that cover elective abortions, in existing federal programs such as Medicaid, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the military."

In describing the Reid language, Johnson said, "The Reid bill establishes a big new federal health insurance program, the public option (although now referred to in Reid's bill as the 'community health insurance option.' The bill authorizes (on page 118) the federal Secretary of Health and Human Services to require coverage of any and all abortions throughout the public option program. This would be federal government funding of abortion, no matter how hard they try to disguise it."

"In addition, the bill creates new tax-supported subsidies to purchase private health plans that will cover abortion on demand," said Johnson.

"The National Right to Life Committee, Wisconsin Right to Life and the other NRCL state affiliates will continue to fight for the Stupak-Pitts Amendment and to oppose attempts by the White House and Democratic congressional leaders to ignore the will of the people by foisting upon them new federal government programs that will fund coverage of elective abortion," said Armacost.

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