

Save Abortion Access!

Stop Stupak-Pitts!



Right-wing forces are using health care reform as an opportunity to restrict women's access to abortion. And they expect reproductive rights supporters to do all the compromising. Conservatives assume they will win either way — either they derail health care reform entirely or they write into law a sweeping ban on abortion coverage.

But there's another way . . . Mobilize for women's lives! We need YOU to tell Congress: Do not eviscerate *Roe v. Wade* under the guise of health care reform!

Here's the situation:

The House of Representatives passed its version of health care reform on Nov. 7, with the anti-abortion Stupak-Pitts Amendment attached. It turns out that Stupak-Pitts is so bad some House members now regret having voted for it.

It's likely that anti-abortion zealots will try to include similar language in the Senate version of the bill, which is currently up for debate. If the Senate bill passes, the two versions must then be reconciled and sent back to the House and Senate for final approval. Each step of the way, we will have to be vigilant and relentless about keeping harmful anti-abortion language OUT of health care reform.

What can YOU do?

Call your senators, and tell them to vote NO on any language that resembles Stupak-Pitts. Trading away women's access to reproductive health services is NOT the way to reform health care! Find more information and action ideas at www.now.org/stupak

What's Wrong with Stupak-Pitts?

NOW has long objected to the Hyde Amendment, which denies the use of federal funds for abortion in most cases. But Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond trying to keep federal dollars from paying for abortion care. For the first time in the U.S., a ban on abortion coverage would impact *private* insurance companies.

Stupak-Pitts prohibits insurance companies from offering abortion coverage in *any* plan (sold on the new "exchange") that enrolls just *one person* receiving subsidies from the government to help them acquire health care. It's a safe bet that insurance companies would avoid the hassle of having their plans audited and meeting other restrictive criteria by declining to offer abortion coverage in *all* plans on the exchange.

Backers of Stupak-Pitts argue that insurance companies could offer abortion coverage to policyholders through special "riders" — but there is no evidence that insurers would actually offer these riders, and it's doubtful that women would purchase additional coverage in anticipation of an unplanned pregnancy.

Abortion is one of the most common medical procedures in the U.S. Abortion *is* health care, and health care is a human right. To deny women abortion coverage is a form of discrimination and a violation of their human rights.

FACT: 87 percent of employer-based insurance policies cover abortion care. (Guttmacher Institute)

FACT: 71 percent of voters support *requiring* health plans to cover women's reproductive health services. (Mellman Group)

FACT: 72 percent of voters said they would be angry if Congress mandated by law that abortion *not be covered* under a national health care plan. (Mellman Group)

FACT: 62 percent of voters would *oppose* health care reform if it eliminates current insurance coverage of reproductive health services such as birth control or abortion. (Mellman Group)

FACT: 56 percent of voters think people who receive government subsidies to help pay for their health insurance should be able to purchase plans that cover abortion. (Mellman Group)