



**H.R. 3200—NATIONAL HEALTH CARE REFORM:  
*PRO-LIFE AMENDMENTS***

**July 30, 2009**

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On Thursday, July 30, the House Energy and Commerce Committee plans to resume its markup of H.R. 3200, the House national health care reform legislation. Rep. Bart Stupak (D-MI) and Rep. Joe Pitts (R-PA) intend to offer four pro-life amendments to the bill.

**(1) Anti-Funding Amendment**

This Amendment limits federal funding for abortion under the health care bill. It states that “[n]o funds authorized under [the] Act . . . may be used to pay for any abortion or to cover any part of the costs of any health plan that includes the coverage of abortion.” The Amendment contains exceptions if the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest or if the woman, as certified by a doctor, “suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would . . . place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed.”

**(2) Anti-Mandate Amendment (Additional Co-sponsor: Rep. Roy Blunt (R-MO))**

This Amendment prevents the health care bill from mandating that health insurance plans cover abortion services. It states that:

No provision of [the] Act . . . shall impose, or shall be construed to impose, any requirement for coverage of abortion, or access to abortion, or to authorize or permit the recommendation for, or imposition of, any such requirement by or through the Health Benefits Advisory Committee, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Health Choices Commissioner, or any other government or quasi-government entity.

The Amendment is subject to the same exceptions as the Anti-Funding Amendment.

**(3) Anti-FOCA Amendment**

This Amendment protects state abortion laws. It states that nothing in the bill “shall be construed to preempt or otherwise have any effect on State laws regarding abortion, including

laws related to the prohibition of (or requirement of) coverage, funding, or procedural requirements on abortion.” The Amendment specifically protects including parental consent and notification laws.

**(4) Conscience Amendment (Additional Co-sponsor: Rep. Terry (R-NE))**

This Amendment protects individuals and hospitals that do not provide abortions from discrimination by the government. It states that Federal agencies and programs and State or local governments that receive Federal funds under the bill “may not—(1) subject any individual or institutional health care entity to discrimination, or (2) require any health plan created or regulated under this Act . . . to subject any individual or institutional health care entity to discrimination.” The Amendment further provides that:

Nothing in this Act . . . shall be construed as forbidding a health plan or health insurance issuer to accommodate the conscientious objection of a purchaser or an individual or institutional health care provider when a procedure is contrary to the religious beliefs or moral convictions of such purchaser or provider.

We call on all Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee to support these important amendments.