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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

COMMITTEE ON
SMALL BUSINESS

July 31, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

We, the undersigned Members of the House of Representatives, call on you to explicitly detail whether abortions will be included in health care coverage mandates, whether employers will be required to provide plans to employees that include abortion coverage and whether individuals will be required to purchase plans that include abortion.

Current health care reform proposals in both the House and Senate chambers would mandate individuals purchase, and employers provide, a minimum package of health care benefits as determined by an independently established commission. Unfortunately, neither proposal provides any indication of whether abortion would be included in these mandated minimum benefits.

According to your proposal, both individuals and employers who do not carry plans that meet federally-established minimum coverage benefits would face steep tax penalties. If abortion coverage was included in these mandates, it would be an affront to millions of pro-life Americans who would be required to purchase, provide and fund a practice they find abhorrent.

Unless a specific exclusion for abortion is included in the final bill, this mandate could force private insurers to cover abortions and force taxpayers to foot the bill. This amounts to an assault on the consciences of pro-life doctors, insurance providers and employers who do not want to carry out, fund or provide these procedures.

Just last week, your budget director, Peter Orszag, was unable to confirm or deny whether abortion mandates were included in proposed health care coverage mandates. We call on you to make this clarification and focus this debate on improving the health of all Americans, rather than on federal funding for abortions.

Sincerely,



Mary Fallin
Member of Congress

Joe Pitts PA-16

Sue Myrick NC-09

Steve King IA-5

Scott Franks AZ-2

Mark Sant ²⁻³

Mike Pence IN-6

John Mansueto TX-5

Thomas ~~Carroll~~ ^{ASOC}

Frank Lucas OK-3

Virginia Fox NC-05

Sam Cole OH-4

Marsha Blackburn TN-07

Barbara MD-6

Chel Pingree GA-11

Mr. Hodegg AZ-3

Jason Schmidt OH-2

Anna Schmidt TX-1

R. Hill TX-11

Steve Scalise LA-1

Rodney Alexander LA-05

W. Todd Akin MO-2

Robert Adenreth

Oliver Hunt

Zach Wamp

Cathy McInnis-Rodgers

Mike Hoepstra

Jerry Moran

By Paul

Howard Coble

John Belton

Doug Lambert

Jim Jim

Kim Brady

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