

Dear Representative:

The undersigned organizations strongly urge you to oppose the deceptive “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” (H.R. 7), a bill designed to fundamentally alter the health insurance market – from a market where abortion coverage is the industry standard to one where abortion coverage is eliminated. H.R. 7 does this by changing the laws that govern both private and public insurance and by twisting the tax code into a tool to take away abortion coverage from women who have it. Ultimately, this bill is designed to deny women the decision whether or not to have an abortion by taking away their insurance coverage.

H.R. 7 twists the tax code into a tool to take away health insurance coverage that women have today. For example, the bill would deny millions of women and families premium tax credits if they purchase a health insurance plan that covers abortion. The bill would force these women – particularly low and moderate income women – to forego a health insurance plan that includes abortion in order to get the premium assistance they need. H.R. 7 would also raise taxes on small businesses by denying the Small Business Health Tax Credit to businesses that offer health insurance that covers abortion. This credit was created to encourage small businesses to offer health insurance to their employees by making it more affordable. This bill would penalize employers for choosing comprehensive coverage for their employees and their families.

H.R. 7 could cause the entire insurance market to drop abortion coverage. The impact of H.R. 7’s changes could be that women across the country lose comprehensive health insurance that includes abortion coverage. The elimination of abortion coverage in the Marketplaces is expected to set the industry standard, meaning that *all* plans, inside and outside the Marketplace, could drop such coverage.

H.R. 7 introduces a new ban on private insurance by forcing all multi-state insurance plans to drop abortion coverage. Currently, the law requires that at least one multi-state health insurance plan in a Marketplace must not provide abortion coverage (except for narrow exceptions). H.R. 7 would replace this requirement with a dramatic restriction banning abortion coverage in all multi-state health insurance plans.

The Rules Committee Print of H.R. 7 includes new provisions that would impose inaccurate and misleading disclosure requirements regarding abortion coverage in plans offered in the Marketplace. This bill overrides existing provisions of the Affordable Care Act that provide consumers with information about their health plans, and instead adds new requirements intended to push insurance companies to drop abortion coverage and deter women from purchasing plans that include such coverage. Moreover, H.R. 7 wrongly asserts that there is a “surcharge” in plans that cover abortion, and would require women to be misled with this falsehood. These new provisions are not about disclosure, but about eliminating abortion coverage, in line with the rest of the bill’s dangerous provisions.

H.R. 7 would permanently ban federal health insurance programs such as Medicaid from including abortion coverage. H.R. 7 would codify harmful legislative riders that deny abortion coverage to women who receive health insurance through the federal government. Moreover, H.R. 7 makes permanent a rider that denies the District of Columbia the ability to decide whether

to use its own local funds to provide abortion coverage. These bans disproportionately affect women of color and low-income women, denying these women the ability to make their own important health care decisions.

H.R. 7 would endanger women’s health by eliminating coverage of abortion even in circumstances where a woman needs an abortion to prevent severe, permanent damage to her health. Because H.R. 7 only makes exceptions in the cases where the woman’s life is endangered, or where she is the survivor of rape or incest, it would leave women whose health is seriously threatened by their pregnancies without access to the care their doctors recommend to protect their health. The impact can be especially harmful to women underserved by the health care system and women with serious health problems.

In summary, H.R. 7 would deny millions of women the ability to make their own decision about whether to have an abortion. H.R. 7 is a dangerous bill that jeopardizes women’s health by directly banning abortion coverage, by raising taxes on families and small businesses that purchase comprehensive insurance coverage, and by imposing “disclosure” requirements that encourage the elimination of abortion coverage. The intent and impact of H.R. 7 is to forever eliminate coverage of abortion in all insurance markets. We strongly urge you to reject this bill.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Civil Liberties Union
American Nurses Association
American Public Health Association
American Society for Reproductive Medicine
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP)
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Black Women’s Health Imperative
Catholics for Choice
Center for Reproductive Rights
Choice USA
Feminist Majority
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Jewish Women International
Joint Action Committee for Political Affairs
Medical Students for Choice
Methodist Federation for Social Action
NARAL Pro-Choice America
National Abortion Federation
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Council of Jewish Women
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Law Program

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
People For the American Way
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Connection Action Fund
Population Institute
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Religious Institute
Reproductive Health Technologies Project
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Unitarian Universalist Association
Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
WV Citizen Action Group