



NATIONAL
ABORTION
FEDERATION

January 22, 1996

George Stephanopoulos
The White House
Washington, DC

Dear George:

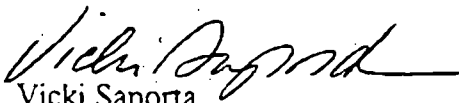
I enjoyed meeting you at the Voters For Choice reception Friday evening and having the opportunity to discuss H.R. 1833. I am faxing a copy of the ad which will appear in tomorrow's *Washington Post* from twenty-one pro-choice groups thanking President Clinton for his commitment to veto this dangerous legislation.

I agree that positive media on the issue is important. That is why the National Abortion Federation has offered to surround President Clinton with the women and their families for whom this procedure was critical. In our months of lobbying and dealing with the press on the issue it is clear that the women's stories are our most persuasive message about why H.R. 1833 should not become law. I am therefore also faxing, for your information, part of a brochure with their statements.

The anti-choice community will not let the veto go unnoticed or uncriticized. That is why it is so important that the White House be able to frame the message that President Clinton is vetoing the legislation to protect women's health and American families. If you think that having the women and their families present at the veto will help convey the positive message that you desire, please let me know and I will be happy to arrange to have them in Washington.

I look forward to hearing from you. If there is anything else we can do to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Vicki Saporta
Executive Director

cc: Alexis Herman

FBI

To: Alexis H
Ann Lewis
Betsy M
James FR: JEREMY
ELENA
NANCY ANN
JEN K
DEB F

Executive Director: Vicki A. Saporta Presidents: Lynne Randall President-Elect: Joan S. Coombs

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On March 24, 1995, Coreen Costello was seven months into her third pregnancy when ultrasound revealed her fetus had a severe and fatal neurological disorder. The fetus had been unable to move for two months. The head was swollen with fluid and the body was stiff. A conservative Republican,



Coreen participated in "Walks for Life" and never thought she'd be faced with such a decision. The Costellos decided, with their doctor, that an abortion was the safest option for Coreen's health and future fertility. The procedure Coreen needed would be banned by this bill.

"We are the families who love and want our babies. We are the families who will forever have a hole in our hearts...It deeply saddens me that you [Senators] are making a decision having never walked in our shoes."

—Coreen Costello

At 32 weeks into her much-wanted pregnancy, Vikki Stella learned that her fetus had nine severe abnormalities — including a fluid-filled cranium with no brain tissue at all. Vikki, a mother of two, and her husband consulted a series of specialists, who offered no hope. For Vikki, a diabetic, the safest



procedure to protect her health and preserve her fertility was an abortion. Today, Vikki is again pregnant. She was outraged when the doctor who saved her "life, health and sanity," the doctor whose picture she still keeps on her refrigerator, called and told her the cure that saved her life was in danger of being

"(I) 've been told mothers like me all want perfect babies... [My son] wasn't imperfect—he was incompatible with life. The only thing keeping him alive was my body. He could never have survived outside my womb... We hope the Senate will listen to the voices of families and reject S. 939."

—Vikki Stella

Richard and Claudia Ades were devastated. Their first child, due in three months, was diagnosed with a fatal chromosomal disorder, which, among other problems, caused extensive brain damage and serious heart complications. The fetus was also severely deformed and given no chance of living. The Ades decided for the sake of their family and future children to end the pregnancy. The procedure Claudia needed would be banned by this bill.

"Although I never imagined I'd have to make a decision like this, I can honestly tell you that for many reasons we feel very blessed. First, we were able to find out when we did. Second, that

we had access to the finest medical care in the world. Third, we live in a place where our right to make that choice has not been compromised...yet."

—Claudia Ades



Eighteen months ago, Viki Wilson, a nurse, and her physician—husband Bill were expecting their third child. Early tests showed the pregnancy to be normal. But, in the eighth month, ultrasound showed the fetus had a fatal condition — two-thirds of the brain had formed outside the skull. Carrying the pregnancy to term would imperil Viki's life and health. In consultation with their doctor, Viki and Bill made the heartbreaking decision to have an abortion. The procedure Viki needed would be banned by this bill.

"I strongly believe that this decision should be left within the intimacy of the family unit. We are the ones who have to live with our decision."

—Viki Wilson, R.

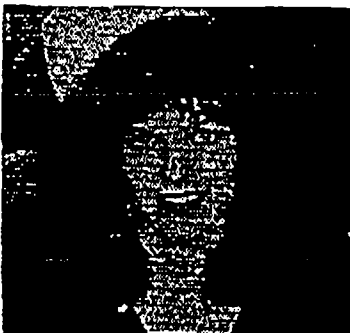


Last fall, Tommy Watts and her husband were elated by the news of her pregnancy. But after a routine ultrasound in the seventh month, the Watts learned their fetus was suffering from a devastating chromosomal disorder and would not live. Knowing the fetus was going to die, the Watts made the most difficult decision of their lives and had an abortion. The procedure Tommy needed would be banned by this bill.

"Until you've walked a mile in my shoes don't pretend to know what this is like for me.

Everybody has got a reason for what they have to do. Nobody should be forced into having to make the wrong decision. That's what would happen if this legislation is passed."

—Tammy Watts



Erica Fox was 22 weeks pregnant on October, 19, 1995, when doctors discovered her fetus had stopped growing, had suffered severe heart damage and was going to die in terrible pain. Erica and her husband took their doctor's advice and decided an abortion would be the option that would best protect Erica's ability to have children in the future.

"Did I just decide in my fifth month that I was tired of being pregnant? No! No! No! ... [This was] the most traumatic incident of my life...So, imagine my horror, when during my recuperation, I turn on C-SPAN and see the House of Representatives vote to make this very same procedure illegal."

—Erica Fox



"I'm a Republican who always
believed that abortion was wrong.
Then I had one."

— Coreen Costello, *New York Times*, 11/29/95

Coreen Costello was seven months into her third pregnancy when ultrasound revealed that her fetus had a severe and fatal neurological disorder.

On the advice of her doctor, Coreen, once an opponent of choice who had participated in "Walks for Life," had an abortion to protect her health and future fertility.

But the medical procedure Coreen needed is on the verge of being outlawed by Congress—part of its far-reaching assault on the right to choose.

For the first time since *Roe v. Wade*, Congress has voted to criminalize certain abortion procedures—and jail the doctors who perform them.

Now, only a Presidential veto—which Congress must not override—can preserve the ability of women and families to make their own moral choices when facing tragic medical circumstances.



Thank you,
Mr. President, for
your commitment
to veto H.R. 1833
to protect women's
health and the
freedom to choose.

American Association of University Women
American Civil Liberties Union
Center for Reproductive Law and Policy
Coalition of Labor Union Women
National Abortion Federation
National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League
National Asian Women's Health Organization
National Black Women's Health Project
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Organization for Women (NOW) Foundation
National Women's Law Center
NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund
Latina Roundtable on Health and Reproductive Rights
People for the American Way Action Fund
Planned Parenthood® Federation of America
ProChoice Resource Center
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice
Voters for Choice
Women's Legal Defense Fund
Women of All Red Nations
YWCA of the USA



EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20503

THE DIRECTOR

June 27, 1995

Honorable Jim Lightfoot
Chairman
Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service
and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Lightfoot:

I understand that your Subcommittee is considering including in the 1996 Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Act a provision that would prohibit health plans that participate in the Federal Employees' Health Benefits Program (FEHBP) from providing coverage for abortions.

From the inception of FEHBP in 1959, the Office of Personnel Management has opposed statutory restrictions with respect to benefits coverage, on the grounds that the health care needs of Federal employees and their families can best be addressed through negotiations between OPM and the many health insurance carriers and plans that participate in FEHBP.

Currently, as you know, the decision to cover abortion is left up to each health plan participating in the FEHBP. At this time, approximately 178 of the 345 FEHBP plans have chosen to cover abortion, with some others covering it in certain circumstances. Federal employees who wish to purchase health coverage that does not include abortion services have that choice.

The Administration believes that employees should continue to have both options. Therefore, we oppose an amendment that would prohibit FEHBP health plans from covering abortion services. While the President believes that abortion should be safe, legal and rare, we do not believe that Federal employees and their dependents should be restricted from choosing to spend their premium dollars on a health plan that includes coverage for abortion services.

Sincerely,

Alice M. Rivlin
Director

Identical letter sent to the Honorable Steny Hoyer

HAROLD L. VOLKMER
9TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
MISSOURI

2409 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2509
(202) 225-2956

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2509

DISTRICT OFFICES
ROOM 370
FEDERAL BUILDING
HANNIBAL, MO 63401
(314) 221-1200

912 E WALNUT
COLUMBIA, MO 65201
(314) 449-5111

122 SOUTH
MACON, MO 63551
(816) 385-5611

317 LAFAYETTE
P.O. BOX 225
WASHINGTON, MO 637
(314) 239-4001

June 23, 1994

The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

This is to respectfully advise you that we all agree that the Nation's health care system needs to be reformed. However, we are unable to support any reform legislation that does not explicitly exclude elective abortion from the scope of any government-defined, government-mandated, or government-funded health benefits package.

As you are aware, President Clinton's original Health Security Act, and its more recent modifications, would establish a "comprehensive benefits package". As the Administration has acknowledged, elective abortion would be covered under the general language describing the benefits package. This means that the bill mandates that all health plans must include abortion facilities and pay for all abortions, and that all working Americans and their employers must pay for unrestricted abortions through their health care premiums.

In addition, the bill extends the federally defined benefits to persons now covered by Medicaid, and to other lower-income groups, using tax funds. If abortion is included in the federal package, this would have the effect of nullifying the Hyde Amendment and the laws of three-fourths of the states that generally prohibit tax-funded abortion.

There are also alternative legislative proposals under which a national commission would decide on the details of a federal benefits package. That system, too, would certainly result in universal, mandatory abortion coverage, because the courts have construed federal laws that provide for general health services (e.g., Medicaid) to cover abortion on request, except where Congress has explicitly excluded abortion.

Honorable Thomas S. Foley
Page 2

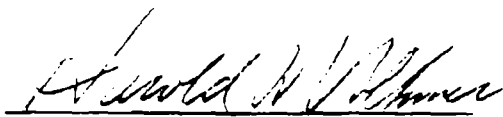
Therefore, we recognize that it is absolutely necessary for any health care legislation to explicitly exclude abortion from the scope of any benefits package defined by any entity of government.

Any health reform bill must also contain language to prevent it from nullifying the types of state abortion limitations that the Supreme Court has ruled are permitted under the Constitution -- for example; parental consent laws, waiting periods, certain limitations on third-trimester abortions, and prohibitions on abortions by non-physicians. The President's bill, and some of the alternative bills as well, contain multiple provisions that would invalidate such state abortion limitations.

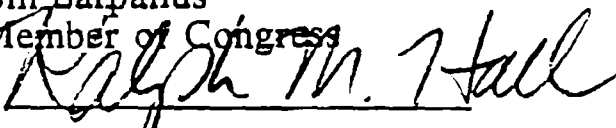
It is our hope that these amendments will be adopted prior to or during floor action on the bill. We will be unable to support any health care bill that does not contain them.

If you would find it constructive to have a meeting on this issue we would be more than willing to meet with you at your convenience. Thank you in advance for your consideration of this very important issue.

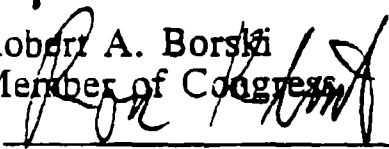
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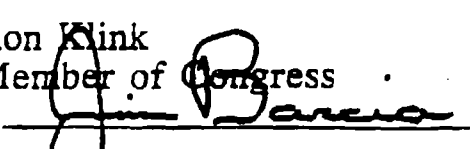

Harold L. Volkmer
Member of Congress

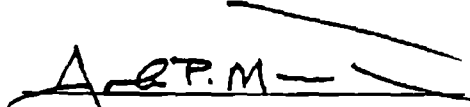

Bill Sarpalius
Member of Congress

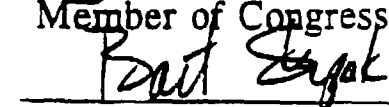

Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress

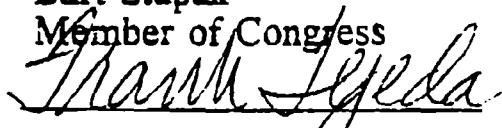

Robert A. Borski
Member of Congress

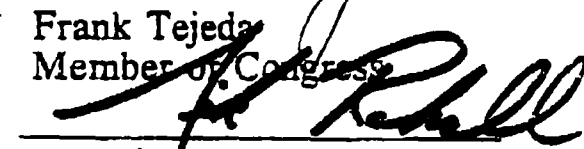

Ron Klink
Member of Congress

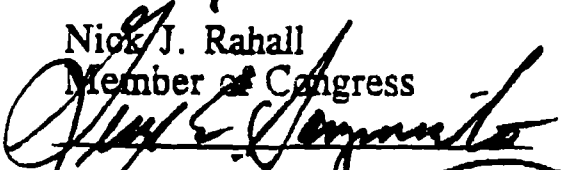

James A. Barcia
Member of Congress

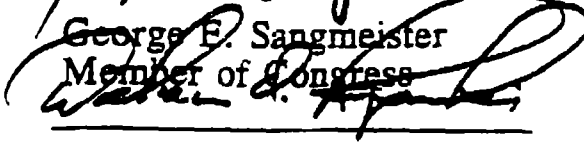

John P. Murtha
Member of Congress


Bart Stupak
Member of Congress


Frank Tejeda
Member of Congress

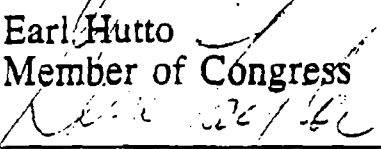

Nick J. Rahall
Member of Congress

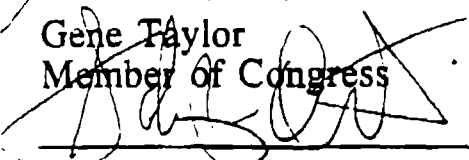

George E. Sangmeister
Member of Congress

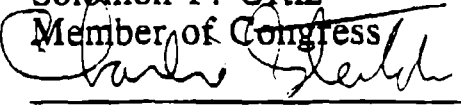

William O. Lipinski
Member of Congress

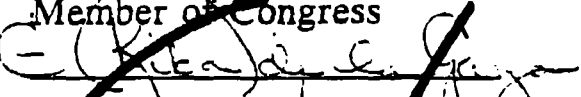
The Honorable Thomas S. Foley
Page 3

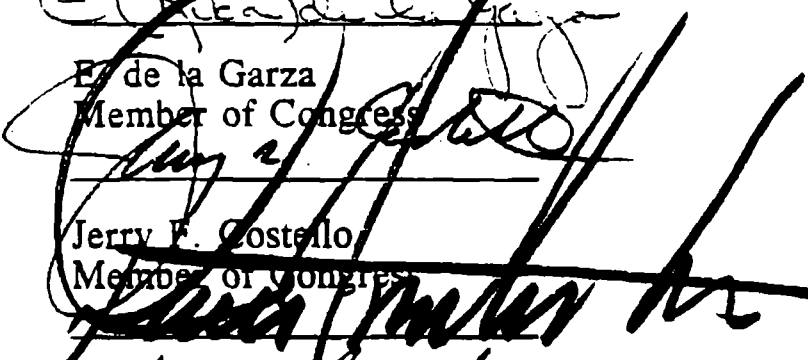

Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress


Earl Hutto
Member of Congress

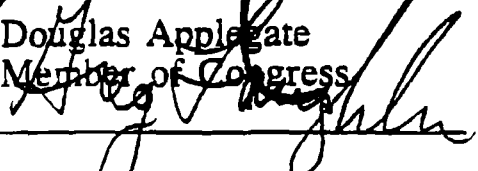

Gene Taylor
Member of Congress


Solomon P. Ortiz
Member of Congress

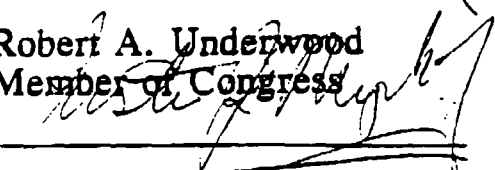

Charles W. Stenholm
Member of Congress

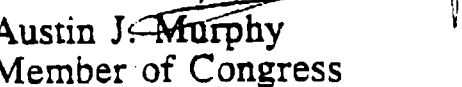

El de la Garza
Member of Congress

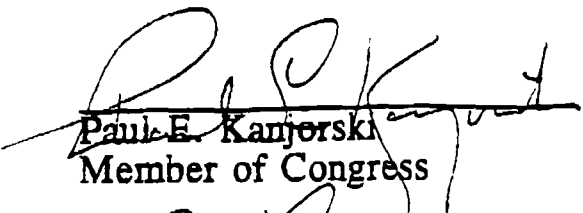

Jerry F. Costello
Member of Congress

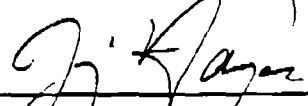

Douglas Applegate
Member of Congress

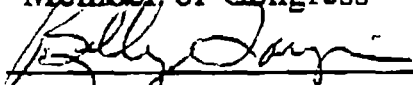

Greg Laughlin
Member of Congress

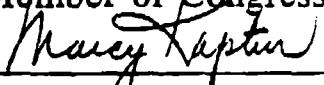

Robert A. Underwood
Member of Congress


Austin J. Murphy
Member of Congress


Paul E. Kanjorski
Member of Congress

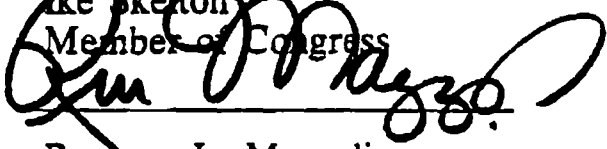

James A. Hayes
Member of Congress

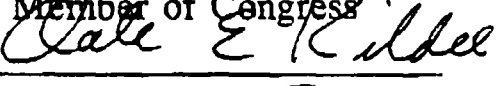

W.J. (Billy) Tauzin
Member of Congress

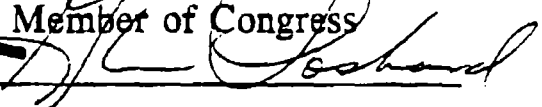

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress


Tim Holden
Member of Congress

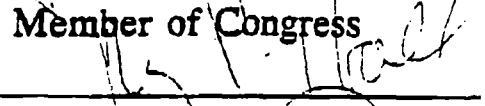

Ike Skelton
Member of Congress

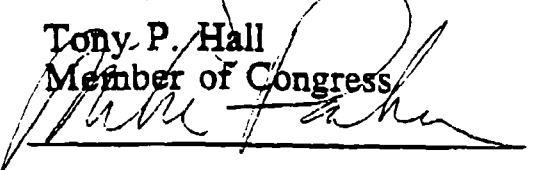

Romano L. Mazzoli
Member of Congress


Dale E. Kildee
Member of Congress


Glenn Poshard
Member of Congress


Alan B. Mollohan
Member of Congress


Tony P. Hall
Member of Congress


Mike Parker
Member of Congress

THE WHITE HOUSE HEALTH CARE REFORM INFORMATION CENTER

(202) 435-6060 - phone

(202) 435-6069 - fax



Number of pages including cover _____

Date _____

To Sen. Per Klein

Fax Number 456 2878

From ROG 712

Comments:

Abortion

AB 100

Approved 5/4/94

Thank you for writing about health care reform. In your letter you expressed concern about the coverage of abortion under the President's health care reform proposal. This is an issue which the Administration considered carefully while formulating the proposal.

President Clinton believes that the constitutional right to privacy protects the right of a woman to make the difficult decision to have an abortion. One of the central goals of health care reform is to protect the benefits people already have, and most private plans already cover the full range of reproductive services. Abortion, as other procedures, will be covered when a doctor determines it is medically necessary or appropriate. A conscience clause ensures that doctors and health institutions - such as religious hospitals - will not be required to provide abortion services against their religious or moral beliefs.

The President's plan provides funding for all state-run comprehensive school health education programs for students in high-risk schools from Kindergarten through grade 12. One of the objectives of these programs is to prevent sexual behaviors resulting in unintended pregnancies.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system and I hope you will work with the President to make health security a reality for all Americans.

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

August 12, 1994

A SMOKE SCREEN -- NOT A COMPROMISE

Dear Colleague:

There were a flurry of news reports yesterday on an alleged compromise with regard to abortion in health care reform legislation. These accounts related that "lawmakers who support abortion rights...said they have crafted a compromise." Our colleague, Mrs. Schroeder, commented, "I think it's a wonderful compromise."

Forgive me if I'm a little skeptical, but this supposed "compromise" is being promoted by Members who are among the strongest supporters of publicly funded abortion on demand and the strongest opponents of any state restrictions on abortion. Members who are cosponsors of the "Freedom of Choice Act," which would wipe out all state parental consent, informed consent, waiting periods and other reasonable laws, including laws limiting third trimester abortions; Members who voted to repeal the Hyde Amendment. Yet these same Members are now coming forward to say that they are willing to codify the Hyde Amendment. This makes me very skeptical.

From the information I have been able to glean about this so-called "compromise," I believe it is a sham. It is not the status quo and it is not a substantive concession.

Under the Clinton-Gephardt bill, the new Medicare Part C trust fund would pay for abortions for any reason, at any time. The "compromise" proposal also would allow all low-income women who want publicly subsidized abortions to get them. This is not the status quo.

Currently the Hyde Amendment, together with the laws and policies of 36 states, prevent taxpayer funds from paying for most abortions. Under the so-called compromise, federal and state tax dollars would go into Medicare Part C and other subsidy programs, which will pay for abortions without limitation. The so-called separation of funds is a mere bookkeeping trick.

The "compromise" proposal would still force employers to contribute to plans (including Medicare Part C) which pay for abortion on demand. This is not the status quo.

It is absurd to say that federal tax dollars would not pay for abortions, when the bill would force employers throughout the United States to contribute to Medicare Part C, which will pay for abortions on demand for the over 40% of the population receiving subsidized health care. These federally mandated premium payments to Medicare Part C or any other government-managed health care insurance are federal taxes on employers.

The Clinton-Gephardt bill, with the alleged "compromise," turns on its head current policy with respect to private insurance coverage for abortion.

Under existing insurance policies, individuals and employers may select plans that cover abortion, but it is not a federally defined "guaranteed benefit." This phony compromise would enshrine abortion as a basic "benefit." This is not the status quo.

Poll after poll indicates that a clear majority of Americans do not want abortion to be included in a basic benefits plan. (In a July 14-17, 1994 CBS News/New York Times poll, only 16% of surveyed Americans favored the inclusion of abortion in the basic plan.) To maintain the status quo and yield to the wishes of most Americans, the bill should exclude abortion from the basic benefits package, but permit individuals to buy abortion insurance if they want it, with their own money. That is what the Hall-Hyde-Kaptur Amendment would do.

The Clinton-Gephardt bill, with this phony "compromise," would still require (and help fund) the creation of hundreds of new abortion clinics throughout the states to assure ready access to all the services in the guaranteed benefit package, including abortion.

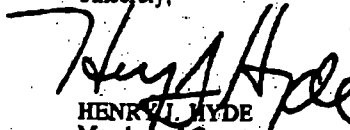
Press accounts say that the "compromise" would leave in place all existing state abortion restrictions.

... were a g... ne protec... It only apply to "existing" laws and regulations? Would...
states be able to... constitutionally permissible limitations... abor...

Don't be foo... 1... is only... amendment to the Cl... on-Gephardt... that will keep abortion policy...
as close as possible to the status quo.

VOTE FOR THE HALL-HYDE-KAPTUR AMENDMENT.

Sincerely,


HENRY L. HYDE
Member of Congress

For further information or documentation, contact:
National Right to Life Committee, (202) 626-8800, ext. 120, or (301) 502-1170

Dear Archbishop Keeler, Cardinal Mahony and Bishop Ricard:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter about health care reform. I am grateful for the tremendous contribution the Catholic Bishops of the United States have made to the debate on health care reform. You have been tireless in your support for universal coverage, just as Catholic health care institutions have been tireless in their dedication to providing high quality health services to even the most disadvantaged in this country.

Despite the efforts of well-financed special interests, we have waged an unprecedented battle for health care reform. Because of the will of the American people, the courage of some members of Congress, and the support of organizations like the United States Catholic Conference, we have come further than at any time in our nation's history toward real health care reform. Senator Mitchell has announced that the Senate will not be able to pass health care legislation this session. Like you, however, I am committed to continuing to fight next year to guarantee health security to every American.

I am also aware of your serious concerns about coverage for abortion services. I believe that abortion should be safe, legal and rare. That is why this Administration is doing everything we can to reduce the number of unintended pregnancies. I do believe, however, that pregnancy-related services should be covered when a doctor determines that they are medically necessary or appropriate. I also continue to support a "conscience clause" that would ensure that physicians and institutions -- such as religious hospitals -- would not be required to provide any services against their moral or religious objection.

Thank you again for writing and for your ongoing commitment to meaningful health care reform. I look forward to continuing to work with you to guarantee affordable, private health insurance to all American families.

Sincerely,

HRC

Thank you for sharing with me your views regarding abortion. I know this subject is of grave concern to you and it is very important to President Clinton and me as well.

A decision regarding abortion is among the most private and painful decisions any woman may face in her lifetime. President Clinton and I believe that each woman should be allowed to make this intensely personal decision without government interference. We also believe strongly that personal privacy is a fundamental right guaranteed by our nation's constitution.

While the President and I are pro-choice, we are not pro-abortion. We believe that abortion should be legal, safe and rare. If our country is to resolve this issue, we must educate men and women so that the number of unwanted pregnancies can be reduced significantly. We must also provide every woman with information regarding physical and mental health issues to enable her to make informed choices for herself and her family.

I realize that you may not agree with President Clinton and me on these issues, but I hope you will give careful consideration to our views. Please be assured that we have listened to yours.

Thank you for writing to support the President's position on the issue of a woman's right to choose. I know this issue is very important to you and it is important to President Clinton and me as well.

A decision regarding abortion is among the most private and painful decisions any woman may face in her lifetime. President Clinton and I believe that each woman should be allowed to make this intensely personal decision without government interference. We also believe strongly that personal privacy is a fundamental right guaranteed by our nation's constitution.

While the President and I are pro-choice, we are not pro-abortion. We believe that abortion should be legal, safe and rare. If our country is to resolve this issue, we must educate men and women so that the number of unwanted pregnancies can be reduced significantly. We must also provide every woman with information regarding physical and mental health issues to enable her to make informed choices for herself and her family.

Thank you again for your views and for your support.

BC

Thank you for your letter regarding a woman's right to choose.

I believe that personal privacy is a fundamental liberty protected by our Bill of Rights. The right to privacy includes the right to make difficult and intensely personal decisions regarding abortion, without governmental interference. I do not believe in the "gag rule" preventing women from discussing abortion with health professionals. In practice, this was directed almost entirely toward low-income Americans who utilize federally funded clinics, effectively denying access to information solely on the basis of income.

I am pro-choice, but I believe that we must reduce the need for abortion. By providing better family planning services and improved education programs and by funding the development of safe, effective contraception, we can reduce the demand for abortions. In addition, I believe adoption should be encouraged, and abstinence and sex education should be taught. I do not believe in criminalizing the conduct of women and their doctors in the areas protected by Roe v. Wade.

I am grateful for your support and encouragement.

BC

Thank you for your letter concerning a woman's right to choose. I've been touched by the many letters I've received from people who care deeply about the future of our country but who are troubled by my position on this issue.

I believe that personal privacy is a fundamental liberty protected by our Bill of Rights. I believe the right to privacy includes the right to make difficult and intensely personal decisions regarding abortion.

While I am firmly pro-choice, I am not pro-abortion. Indeed, I believe we must do more to reduce the number of abortions and unwanted pregnancies, and I am working on that.

Though we may differ on this issue, I hope that our common concerns for the future of America will unite us. I appreciate your sincerity and your candor.

Dear :

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the coverage of abortion under the Administration's health care reform proposal. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Most private insurance plans cover a full range of reproductive services, including abortion. The Administration's proposal preserves the benefits currently available to most American women. Reproductive services, as other procedures, will be covered when a doctor determines that they are medically necessary or appropriate. A conscience clause ensures that individual doctors and health care institutions -- such as hospitals operated by religious organizations -- may choose not to perform any service for moral or religious reasons.

The Administration's proposal also includes services and programs designed to make abortion as rare as possible. For example, the plan provides voluntary family planning services and creates a comprehensive school health education program to increase awareness and to avoid teen pregnancy.

The citizens of this nation now have an historic opportunity to change our health care system. I hope you will work with us to make health security a reality for all Americans.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

M E M O R A N D U M

Date: 7/6/94

From: JIM DORSKIND 
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CORRESPONDENCE AND PRESIDENTIAL
MESSAGES

To: MARJORIE TARMY FOR IRA MAGAZINER
OFFICE OF DOMESTIC POLICY

cc: HAROLD ICKES
PHIL LADER
GREG LAWLER
BUDDY MENN
ROGER GOLDBRIATT

As we discussed today, I have learned that the Vice President's Correspondence Department is sending out the attached form letter on the coverage of reproductive services (including abortion) in the President's health care reform proposal. Currently, as you know, despite our repeated efforts, Presidential Correspondence has not been able to obtain clearance from health care policy offices to respond to the many pending letters on this important, if controversial, issue.

I have also attached our proposed revision of the Vice President's letter. Please inform me if this text is acceptable for the President's signature or if we should send out a more general acknowledgement. Either way, I believe the President's and the Vice President's message should be consistent and that this needs immediate attention.

Thank you for your assistance.

07-06-94 03:50PM FROM VP OFFICE 202 SDB

TO 94562806

P001/001

THE VICE PRESIDENT

Post-It™ brand fax transmittal memo 7871		# of pages
To <i>Monica</i>	From <i>Karin Williams</i>	
Co.	Co.	
Dept.	Phone # <i>224-4395</i>	
Fax #	Fax #	

ITEM #: 493 ()

abortion services in health care plan ** WL **

*Debbie
Bankston*

TOP/SUBTOPIC (1): health/family planning
 TYPE OF DOC.: issue
 CREATE DATE: JAN-24-94
 UPDATE DATE: JUN-06-94
 AIDE: DBB

Thank you for contacting my office regarding the coverage of abortion in the Administration's Health Security Plan. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important issue.

Most private insurance plans cover a full range of reproductive services, including abortion. The Administration's proposal preserves the benefits currently available to most American women. Reproductive services, as other procedures, will be covered when a doctor determines that they are medically necessary or appropriate. A conscience clause ensures that individual doctors and health care—such as hospitals operated by religious organizations—may choose not to perform any service for moral or religious reasons. *provide*

The Administration's proposal also includes services and programs designed to make abortion as rare as possible. For example, the plan provides voluntary family planning services and creates a comprehensive school health education program to increase awareness and to avoid teen pregnancy.

Again, thank you for letting me hear from you.

Monica Mullens

P-408

Reproductive services in health plan

7/6/94

Thank you for writing with your concerns about the coverage of abortion in my Administration's health care reform proposal. We carefully considered this issue while formulating the proposal, and I appreciate hearing your ~~input~~ ^{views} ~~or~~ ^{thoughts on this important issue.}

Most private insurance plans cover a full range of reproductive services, including abortion. My Administration's proposal preserves the benefits currently available to most American women. Reproductive services, as other procedures, will be covered when a doctor determines that they are medically necessary or appropriate. A conscience clause ensures that individual doctors and health care providers -- such as hospitals operated by religious organizations -- may choose not to perform any service for moral or religious reasons.

Our proposal also includes services and programs designed to make abortion as rare as possible. For example, the plan provides voluntary family planning services and creates a comprehensive school health education program to increase awareness and to avoid teen pregnancy. ^[could include a sentence about teen pregnancy programs in welfare reform.]

Our nation now has an historic opportunity to change our health care system to make it work for all of us. I hope you will work with me to make health security a reality for all Americans. Again, thank you for sharing your views on this important subject.