



The President's Final Budget Again Fails to Strike Most Restrictions on Insurance Coverage of Abortion

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Washington, DC – Today, President Obama submitted his fiscal year (FY) 2016 budget to Congress. Although this proposed budget would improve current law to allow the District of Columbia to use local funds to cover abortion for low-income women, it would maintain current restrictions on abortion coverage for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees, federal employees and their dependents, Peace Corps volunteers, Native American women using the Indian Health Service, and women in federal prisons and detention centers.

“While I appreciate the steps the President has taken to lift the ban on the District of Columbia using its own funds to cover abortion for low-income women,” said Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project, **“there is much more the Administration could do to ensure women can make personal health decisions about abortion based on what is best for them and their families.**

“I am very disappointed that the President sent a budget to Congress that continues to withhold coverage for abortion for women enrolled in federal health plans and programs. I hoped that President Obama would strike the Hyde Amendment and all other provisions in the budget that restrict coverage for abortion. Singling out abortion services for exclusion from federal health care plans disproportionately affects low-income women, young women, and women of color.

“Given the U.S. House’s recent vote on H.R. 7 – which would make these budget restrictions permanent, effectively ban abortion coverage in all private health plans, and raise taxes on women and small businesses who pay for abortion care – it is especially important to see leadership on this issue. Congress should be lifting restrictions on abortion coverage so women can access all pregnancy-related care whenever they need it, not trying to create more barriers to that care.

“We will continue to encourage the President to stand up to legislators who seek to interfere with women’s personal decisions by making abortion care more costly and pushing it further out of reach for the women who are already struggling to make ends meet.”

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