



House Subcommittee Considers Sweeping Bill Denying Coverage for Abortion Care
Reproductive health advocates condemn attempt to play politics with women's health.

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Statement by Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project on a hearing to consider H.R. 7, the "No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act."

"Today the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution and Civil Justice will consider House Resolution 7, a sweeping and extreme bill that would deny health insurance coverage for abortion for virtually all women.

"Some politicians want to make abortion illegal but cannot, so instead they push bans that deny insurance coverage to make abortion unaffordable.

"It is bad enough that Congress uses the appropriations process every year to withhold abortion coverage for women enrolled in Medicaid and other federal health programs. Now, not only are abortion opponents trying to turn that policy into permanent law, they also want to block women from purchasing private insurance that includes abortion coverage.

"HR 7 is more than just meddling with women's personal decisions – it's an all-out ban on abortion for some women. For a woman struggling to make ends meet, an abortion may cost more than a month's rent. Many families simply don't have the savings to absorb unexpected medical costs. That's why a woman should have coverage for all the pregnancy-related care she needs, including abortion, regardless of her income or type of insurance.

"For a woman to be able to make a meaningful decision as to whether to become a parent, end her pregnancy, or place a child for adoption, she must be able to afford the care she needs. Guaranteeing insurance coverage ensures a woman will be able to consider all her options and see a quality health care provider.

"As we pause to observe the 50th anniversary of the War on Poverty, it is shameful that Congress is considering a measure that could increase the economic insecurity of women and their families. Rather than erecting more barriers to abortion care, Congress should lift the current restrictions on abortion coverage so that women, not politicians, can make the all-important decision of whether and when to become a parent."

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