



House Passes Bill Denying Women Coverage for Abortion Care

Reproductive health advocates condemn political interference with women's personal decisions.

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

"Today the House of Representatives passed House Resolution 7, an extreme bill that would deny health insurance coverage for abortion to virtually all women.

"This is a sweeping ban on abortion coverage and another mean-spirited attempt to interfere with personal decision-making, one that falls hardest on the women and families who are struggling to get by.

"For too long, members of Congress have used the annual appropriations process to withhold abortion coverage for women enrolled in Medicaid and other federal health plans and programs. Now, they are taking that one step further by not only voting to make that policy permanent, but also by blocking women and small businesses from purchasing private insurance that includes abortion coverage.

"This is more than just meddling – it's an all-out ban for some women. Studies show that when policymakers place these types of restrictions on Medicaid coverage of abortion, it forces one in four poor women to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term.

"Think about it: the woman struggling to pay for an abortion is also the woman trying to find or maintain employment, avoid eviction, and pay her heating bill. **When politicians deny abortion coverage and make it unaffordable, it can jeopardize a family's financial security.**

"Women deserve to have coverage for all of their pregnancy-related needs, including abortion care.

"It's time to *lift* restrictions on abortion coverage, not make abortion even more out of reach."

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