



## **Reproductive Health Advocates Condemn House Vote Denying Coverage for Abortion Care**

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*Statement by Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project on U.S. House vote on H.R. 7, the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2015.”*

“When abortion opponents realized a ban on abortion at 20 weeks was unpopular even among their own ranks, they fell back on a tired strategy of pushing restrictions on insurance coverage for abortion care. H.R. 7 is an extreme bill that would deny abortion coverage to virtually all women.

“The name may have changed but the game’s the same. H.R. 7 is simply another mean-spirited, political attempt to interfere with a woman’s personal decision-making, one that falls hardest on women 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. This bill goes even further by not only making that policy permanent, but also by blocking women and small businesses from purchasing private insurance that includes abortion coverage.

“This sweeping measure 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 approximately one in four poor women to carry an unwanted pregnancy to term.

“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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