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Contact: Sara Alcid
(202) 530-4401 office / salcid@rhtp.org

President's Budget Fails to Lift Most Restrictions on Insurance Coverage of Abortion Care

*Advocates urge Congress to stop interfering
with women's personal decisions by denying abortion coverage.*

Washington, DC – Yesterday, President Obama submitted a fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget to Congress. Although his budget would improve current law to allow the District of Columbia to use local funds to cover abortion for low-income women and provide abortion coverage for Peace Corps volunteers in cases of rape, incest, and life endangerment, it would also maintain current restrictions on abortion coverage for Medicaid and Medicare enrollees, federal employees and their dependents, Native American women, and women in federal prisons and detention centers.

“We are disappointed that the President sent a budget to Congress that continues to withhold coverage for abortion in most instances,” said Jessica Arons, President & CEO of the Reproductive Health Technologies Project. “While we are glad the budget would restore autonomy to the District of Columbia to cover abortion care for low-income residents and that Peace Corps volunteers would at least have the same minimal abortion coverage as federal employees, there is much more that our President can do to ensure that a woman is not denied abortion coverage for purely political reasons.

“In the wake of unceasing attacks on abortion rights like 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 that the President stand up to those who seek to interfere with women's personal decisions by making abortion care more costly and unattainable.

“For a woman to be able to make a real decision based on what's best for her own circumstances, she must be able to afford the care she needs. Having insurance coverage helps to ensure she will be able to see a licensed, quality health care provider in a timely manner.

“When it comes to the most important decisions in life, such as whether to become a parent, it is vital that a woman be able to consider all her options – including abortion – no matter her income or source of insurance. It's time for Congress to lift restrictions on abortion coverage so women can access all pregnancy-related care whenever they need it.”

1020 19th St NW – Suite 875 – Washington, DC 20036 – 202.530.4401 – fax: 202.530-4404 – www.rhtp.org