

JAN 21 2010

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STRONGLY URGING THE INCLUSION OF PROTECTIONS FOR WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE, INCLUDING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH SERVICES, IN THE PATIENT PROTECTION AND AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.

1 WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is
2 now currently being debated in the United States Congress under
3 the rubric of comprehensive national health care reform; and
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5 WHEREAS, everyone in this country shares the need for
6 affordable, accessible, and comprehensive health care, but women
7 have unique roles as patients, family health care decision
8 makers, and caregivers -- whether paid or unpaid; and
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10 WHEREAS, yet our current health care system fails to meet
11 the needs of far too many women, especially low-income women and
12 minority populations; and
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14 WHEREAS, women need health care reform with premiums and
15 out-of-pocket costs that are affordable and with no annual and
16 lifetime benefit caps; and
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18 WHEREAS, women need an end to harmful insurance industry
19 practices such as gender rating or being rejected for coverage
20 based on health status or pre-existing conditions; and
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22 WHEREAS, women are less likely to get health insurance
23 through their jobs and more than twice as likely as men to get
24 employer-sponsored coverage through their spouses. And as the
25 economy worsens, many employers are reducing health care
26 coverage for dependents, leaving millions of women and children
27 at risk; and
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29 WHEREAS, research has found that:
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- 1 (1) One in four women are unable to pay their medical
2 bills;
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- 4 (2) Women are more likely than men to delay or go without
5 needed health care because of high medical costs;
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- 7 (3) Women who have to buy insurance directly from insurers
8 are often charged more than men for the exact same
9 coverage, a practice known as gender rating, which is
10 capricious and unfair;
- 11
- 12 (4) It is still legal in eight states and the District of
13 Columbia for insurers to reject women for coverage if
14 they are survivors of domestic violence;
- 15
- 16 (5) Insurers can reject women simply for having had a
17 Cesarean section;
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- 19 (6) Of the three thousand five hundred insurance plans
20 reviewed by the National Women's Law Center, only
21 twelve per cent offered comprehensive maternity
22 coverage; and
- 23
- 24 (7) Fully eighteen per cent of all women have no health
25 insurance whatsoever; and
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27 WHEREAS, women need comprehensive benefits, including
28 reproductive health care. No woman should lose coverage that
29 she has now, including coverage for termination of pregnancy;
30 and

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32 WHEREAS, the version of the health care reform bill in the
33 United States House of Representatives would provide the most
34 sweeping expansion of federal prohibitions on abortion since
35 1976, when the Hyde Amendment was enacted that has since banned
36 federal funds for abortion in the military, the Foreign Service,
37 the Peace Corps, Medicaid, and other federally connected health
38 care services; and

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40 WHEREAS, an amendment proposed by Representative Bart
41 Stupack (D-Michigan) essentially would expand the Hyde Amendment
42 to the health care reform bill; and

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1 WHEREAS, the Stupak amendment would take away the freedom
2 of conscience from American women and prohibits them from
3 abortion coverage even if they pay for it with their own money
4 by blocking abortion coverage from nearly all the health care
5 plans made possible by health care reform; and
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7 WHEREAS, if incorporated into the final version of the
8 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the Stupak Amendment
9 would:

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- 11 (1) Prevent women receiving tax subsidies from using their
12 own money to purchase private insurance that covers
13 abortion;
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 - 15 (2) Prevent women participating in the public health
16 insurance exchange, administered by private insurance
17 companies, from using one hundred per cent of their
18 own money to purchase private insurance that covers
19 abortion; and
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 - 21 (3) Prevent low-income women from accessing abortion
22 entirely, in many cases; and
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24 WHEREAS, it is crucial that women's health care needs be
25 recognized and that the Patient Protection and Affordable Care
26 Act include protections for women's health care, including
27 women's reproductive health services; now, therefore,
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29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-fifth
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that the United States
32 Congress is strongly urged to include protections for women's
33 health care, including women's reproductive health services in
34 the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of Hawaii's
37 congressional delegation are urged to support the inclusion of
38 protections for women's health care, including women's
39 reproductive health services in the Patient Protection and
40 Affordable Care Act; and
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42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
43 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the
44 United States, the President of the United States Senate, the



S.C.R. NO. 4

1 Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the
2 members of Hawaii's congressional delegation.

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