



SUSAN B. ANTHONY LIST

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February 18, 2010

President Barack Obama  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama,

On behalf of the millions of Americans represented by our organizations, the undersigned groups urge you to explicitly exclude abortion funding from health care reform legislation. To reflect the national consensus, any bipartisan agreement on health care reform must exclude abortion funding.

Recently as a part of your efforts to revitalize the health care debate, you have proposed a televised bipartisan summit. On February 7, 2010, you told Katie Couric, "Let's just go through these bills, their ideas, our ideas - let's walk through them in a methodical way so that the American people can see and compare what makes the most sense." In light of this renewed commitment to bipartisanship, we therefore urge you to acknowledge the one issue with the greatest bipartisan consensus: an explicit exclusion of public funds for abortion.

American public opinion polling tells us that there can be no greater bipartisan agreement than on the subject of limiting public funds for abortion. An overwhelming majority of Americans—72% according to a recent Quinnipiac poll—oppose using public funds to subsidize abortion in the name of "health care." Last fall, 64 House Democrats joined their Republican colleagues in the House to pass the Stupak Amendment to exclude abortion funding from the House health care bill. This vote was the single largest bipartisan statement in the health care debate thus far.

The American people want clear language to prevent the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion or any health care plans that cover abortion. This is the status quo, as defined by the Hyde Amendment and numerous longstanding budgetary riders. The only legislative language that will maintain the status quo is the bipartisan Stupak Amendment as passed by the House.

President Obama, on behalf of the 72% of Americans who do not want to pay for abortions, we urge you to take action to uphold the claim you made last year to "protect the consciences of taxpayers." A successful bipartisan effort on health care must begin with the end in mind—that means jettisoning the issues like abortion funding that offend an overwhelming bipartisan American majority from the start.

We urge you to honor the national consensus against taxpayer funding of abortion on-demand.  
Please stand true to your word and protect the consciences of the American taxpayers.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser  
President, Susan B. Anthony List

Tom McClusky  
Sr. Vice President, Family Research Council Action

Tom Minnery  
Senior Vice President, Government and Public  
Policy, Focus on the Family

David Bereit  
National Director, 40 Days for Life

Brian Burch  
President, CatholicVoteAction.org

Andy Blom  
Executive Director, American Principles in Action

Gary Aldrich  
Chairman, CNP Action, Inc.

Steven Ertelt  
Editor and CEO, Lifenews.com

Penny Pullen  
President, Life Advocacy Resource Project

Dr. Pat McEwen  
Director, Life Coalition International

Joseph A. Brinck  
President, Sanctity of Life Foundation

Dr. Carl Herbster  
President, AdvanceUSA

Dorothy Wallis  
President, Caring to Love Ministries

Steven W. Mosher  
President, Population Research Institute

Samuel E. Ericsson  
President, Advocates International

Dana Cody, Esq.  
President, Life Legal Defense Foundation

Kristan Hawkins  
President, Students for Life of America

Fr. Frank Pavone  
National Director, Priests for Life  
President, National Pro-life Religious Council

Georgette Forney  
President, Anglicans for Life

David Ripley  
President, Idaho Chooses Life

Christopher Bell  
President, Good Counsel, Inc.

Gary L. Bauer  
President, American Values

Rev. Paul Stallworth  
Taskforce of United Methodists on Abortion and  
Sexuality—Lifewatch

Jo Tolck  
Executive Director, Human Life Alliance

Penny Young Nance  
CEO, Concerned Women for America

Dr. Charmaine Yoest  
President, Americans United for Life

Joyce Zounis  
Beyond The Bandaide Radio

Jim Hughes  
National President, Campaign Life Coalition

Bradley Mattes  
Executive Director, Life Issues Institute

J.C. Willke, M.D.  
President, Life Issues Institute

Margaret H. Hartshorn, Ph.D.  
President, Heartbeat International

Theresa Bonopartis  
Director, Lumina/Hope Healing After Abortion



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February 18, 2010

Rep. John Boehner  
1011 Longworth H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Minority Leader Boehner,

As you are well aware, President Obama has recently taken a new approach to healthcare reform. Next week, as Republicans and Democrats gather at the White House to make a renewed attempt at a bipartisan healthcare reform bill, we urge you to stand by the Stupak Amendment. In a recent interview with Katie Couric, the president said, "Let's just go through these bills — their ideas, our ideas — let's walk through them in a methodical way so that the American people can see and compare what makes the most sense." It seems that President Obama has now realized he simply cannot afford to ignore the areas of greatest bipartisan consensus.

American public opinion polling tells us that there can be no greater bipartisan agreement than on the subject of limiting public funds for abortion. An overwhelming majority of Americans—72% according to a recent Quinnipiac poll—oppose using public funds to subsidize abortion in the name of "health care." Last fall, 64 House Democrats (1/4 of the Democratic members) joined your caucus in the House to pass the Stupak Amendment to exclude abortion funding from the House health care bill. This vote was the single largest bipartisan success in the health care debate thus far.

The American people want clear language to prevent the use of taxpayer dollars for abortion or any health care plans that cover abortion. This is the status quo, as defined by the Hyde Amendment and numerous longstanding budgetary riders. The only legislative language that will maintain the status quo is the bipartisan Stupak Amendment as passed by the House.

On behalf of the 72% of Americans who do not want to pay for abortions, we urge you to demand the President uphold his claim to "protect the consciences of taxpayers." Any bipartisan effort on health care must begin with the end in mind—that means jettisoning the issues like abortion funding that offend an overwhelming bipartisan American majority from the start. We urge you to honor the national consensus against taxpayer funding of abortion on-demand. Please stand true to your party platform and do all you can to protect the consciences of the American taxpayers.

If the President cannot begin this bipartisan process by abiding by what Americans of all stripes have already made astoundingly clear, he cannot expect to proceed well. If the President does not support language to completely take abortion off the table, then he reveals that abortion ideology is more precious to him than even his top domestic priority.

The pro-life position is gaining momentum. The Susan B. Anthony List and our allies are witnessing a springtime of pro-life activism, the likes of which has not ever been seen before, including the year 1973 when *Roe v. Wade* struck down every pro-life law in the nation. The grassroots tidal wave of support for the Stupak amendment has only strengthened the bipartisan coalition advocating respect for the consciences of the majority of taxpayers.

Thank you for your continued leadership in efforts to protect the lives of the unborn. Please know that we the undersigned will be behind you as you defend Life, every step of the way.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser  
President, Susan B. Anthony List

Tom McClusky  
Sr. Vice President, Family Research Council Action

Tom Minnery  
Senior Vice President, Government and Public  
Policy, Focus on the Family

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