



## WISCONSIN CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

December 2, 2009

Editors  
Wisconsin State Journal  
Capital Times  
P.O. Box 8058  
Madison, WI 53078

Dear Editor:

Some have recently described the Stupak-Pitts amendment to the House health care reform bill as forcing “unprecedented restrictions” on abortion.

Not so.

According to the reporting service for the Library of Congress (<http://thomas.loc.gov/>): “the amendment prohibits federal funds for abortion services in the public option. It also prohibits individuals who receive affordability credits from purchasing a plan that provides elective abortions. However, it allows individuals, both who receive affordability credits and who do not, to separately purchase with their own funds plans that cover elective abortions. It also clarifies that private plans may still offer elective abortions.”

The amendment simply incorporates rules that apply to other federal health care programs, such as Medicaid, Medicare, the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and the TRICARE military plan, all of which do not cover abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or danger of death for the mother.

Stupak-Pitts does not threaten the right of a woman to have an abortion, but it does protect the rights of those who do not want their taxes to pay for it. It preserves a policy that has endured for over three decades under administrations of both parties. It rightly belongs in health care reform legislation.

Respectfully,

Kim Wadas  
Associate Director, Education & Health Care  
Wisconsin Catholic Conference