

Health Care and Abortion

We are at a critical time in history regarding our nation's health care. As you know, Care Net does not generally get involved in political or legislative issues, because we exist to reach out to and serve women, men and families facing unplanned pregnancies and sexual health concerns. However, since the current health care reform proposal would have far reaching consequences to pregnancy centers and to the women, men and families we serve, this is the time to take action.

Under the current health care reform proposal in Congress, everyone's tax dollars would be used to pay for abortions even though a 2008 Zogby poll showed that 71 percent of Americans are opposed to government-funded abortions.

We are extremely concerned about the implications of what this would mean for Care Net right here in Dane County and the surrounding area. If abortions are free in the U.S., they will increase by 33%, according to Planned Parenthood's Guttmacher Institute.

What is more, since abortion will be considered part of our federal health care system, states will no longer be able to regulate it. If laws like 24-hour waiting periods are superseded by an abortion mandate, that precious window of time that pregnancy centers have to reach women with resources, information, and support will be lost. Privately supported, volunteer led pregnancy centers, such as Care Net are one of the most effective ways to help reduce abortion and this bill would put Care Net centers and those facing unplanned pregnancies at risk.

Finally, this bill provides no provision for the rights of conscience of pro-life healthcare professionals. If these rights are trumped, individuals who favor life affirming options may leave or simply not enter the field of medicine. Requiring doctors and nurses to make abortion referrals carries significant consequences for medical professionals and may also detrimentally impact pregnancy centers like Care Net.

If enacted, this health care reform proposal will result in the biggest expansion of abortion since Roe V. Wade. That's why we're imploring you to PRAY. This issue is bigger than us, and we desperately need divine intervention. Also, please call or e-mail your State Representative and Senators Kohl and Feingold as soon as possible. We expect that Congress will act on this bill in September so time is of the essence.

As we stand together, let's remember that with God's help, we can scale a wall!