

September 8, 2009

Representative Tom Price  
U.S. House of Representatives  
424 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Price:

On behalf of FRCAction, the legislative action arm of Family Research Council, and the families we represent, I want to thank you for including a provision to permanently exclude abortion from health care reform in your Empowering Patient's First Act (H.R. 3400) and for including a non-discrimination provision to protect conscience rights for healthcare workers.

As you know, health care legislation moving through Congress would cover abortion unless it is explicitly excluded due to the history of government funding of abortion and the necessity of the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde amendment prevents funding from going to abortion services or plans that cover abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or where life of the mother is in danger. However, because the Hyde Amendment is a provision in the annual Labor, Health and Human Services appropriations bill, it could be removed. Additionally, much of the funding under the various health care bills before Congress would bypass the LHHS process altogether and, therefore, would bypass the Hyde Amendment protections. It is essential to permanently codify the Hyde Amendment and your legislation contains a provision (Sec. 105) to do just that.

Your legislation also contains a provision (Sec. 106) to prevent discrimination by the federal and state governments, or governments receiving funds, against those who object to participating in abortion. Despite three laws protecting conscience rights of healthcare workers, the current Administration has proposed rescinding regulations enforcing those conscience laws, and any health care reform must also protect those rights as your legislation would do.

Thank you again for your defense of human life by incorporating provisions in your health care reform legislation to ensure that *abortion is permanently and explicitly excluded*. Thank you also for standing up for health care workers who object to this practice.

Sincerely,



Thomas McClusky  
Senior Vice President