

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations, representing millions of health care consumers, patients and providers, strongly supported passage of the Affordable Care Act and are working to protect the Act from efforts in Congress to undermine or repeal it. To that end, we are writing to urge you to oppose the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3) and the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358), part of a concerted strategy to re-open the compromise on abortion that paved the way for the law's passage and undermine support for this landmark law.

Rekindling the debate over abortion coverage is part of a concerted effort to erode support for the law. In a recent interview, Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Fred Upton stated that the House will consider several changes to the Affordable Care Act, including attacks on funding, the personal responsibility provision, and the abortion provision, all as part of the strategic effort by members opposed to the bill to "see if we can't have the thing crumble."

Moreover, H.R. 3 and H.R. 358 revive the rejected Stupak Amendment and re-open the abortion compromise that prevented federal funds from being used to pay for abortion in the Exchanges. This compromise, opposed by individuals and organizations on both sides of the abortion debate, helped to secure the votes needed for passage. Reopening this compromise threatens to undermine Congressional support for this law at a time when it is critical that those who support it stand together to protect it.

A core premise of the Affordable Care Act remains that if you like the coverage you have – you can keep it; something ACA opponents have bitterly challenged. And yet, by threatening to take away health coverage women already have, both these bills would undo that most basic premise. Furthermore, H.R. 3 would raise taxes on some employers and individuals based on the content of what their health insurance plans covered.

Finally, these bills simply provide an opportunity for Members of Congress seeking the repeal of the Affordable Care Act to perpetuate the falsehood that the Act allows federal funds to be used for abortion. Independent analyses, as well as the bill itself, state clearly that this is not the case. Members of Congress who support H.R. 3 and H.R. 358 continue to state—falsely—that the Affordable Care Act allows federal funds to be used for abortion, and use this false claim in a misguided effort to undermine support for the new health care law.

We urge you to continue to support for the compromise that made passage of the Affordable Care Act possible, to reject efforts to revive this unnecessary and counterproductive debate, and to oppose these harmful bills.

Sincerely,

Action United  
African Rights Activists Group  
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)  
American Medical Student Association  
American Nurses Association  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
California Partnership  
Campaign for America's Future  
Campaign for Better Health Care (IL)  
Campaign for Community Change  
Center for American Progress Action Fund

Children's Defense Fund-NY  
Citizen Action of New York  
Citizen Action of Illinois  
Community Catalyst  
Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Detroit Black Nurses Association  
Families USA  
Georgia Rural Urban Summit  
Greater New York City for Change  
Health Access California  
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)  
The Hemophilia Association of New York, Inc.  
Human Rights Campaign  
Metro NY Healthcare for All  
Michigan Citizen Action  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund  
National Association of Social Workers, West Virginia Chapter  
National Physicians Alliance  
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage  
North Carolina Fair Share  
Ocean State Action (RI)  
Organize Now (FL)  
Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute (PHI)  
Penn ACTION  
Prairie State Medical Society  
Progress Florida  
Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada  
ProgressNow Nevada  
ProgressOhio  
Rekindling Reform  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
United Steelworkers Local 960 (Peoria, IL)  
Universal Healthcare Action Network (UHCAN)  
USAction  
UU Fellowship of Northern Nevada  
Virginia Organizing  
Washington Community Action Network  
West Virginia Citizen Action Group  
Young Invincibles