



American  
Public Health  
Association

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*Protect, Prevent, Live Well*

November 7, 2009

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association (APHA), the oldest and most diverse organization of public health professionals and advocates in the world dedicated to promoting and protecting the health of the public and our communities, I write in strong opposition to an amendment to H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act by Representatives Stupak, Ellsworth, Pitts, Smith (NJ), Kaptur and Dahlkemper that would restrict women's access to legal abortion services.

The amendment would prohibit the "public option" created in the legislation from covering abortion services. In addition, the amendment would prohibit any individual receiving subsidies for their insurance premiums from purchasing a plan that offers abortion services. The amendment could significantly impact lower and middle-income women who are not able to afford to purchase separate supplemental coverage for abortion services.

Since 1967, APHA has recognized the importance of women's access to safe abortion services as a critical public health issue and has called for federal funding for abortion services, increased training and the safeguarding of abortion as a reproductive choice. We urge you to oppose the amendment.

Thank you for your attention to our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin".

Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)  
Executive Director