

Twenty-Nine Democrats Urge Health Care Abortion Restrictions

On October 23, 2009, Rep. Alan Mollohan (D-WV) announced that he and 28 other Democratic Representatives had sent a letter to Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) requesting that the Hyde Amendment be included in the Houses' health care reform bill, America's Affordable Health Choices Act (H.R. 3200), when the measure comes to the House floor. The letter was sent to Speaker Pelosi on September 29, 2009. The text of the letter follows:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madam Speaker,

During President Obama's address to the Joint Session of Congress on September 9, 2009, he outlined his goals for health care reform. In his remarks, he stated that "no Federal dollars will be used to fund abortions." As Democrats who oppose Federal funding to pay for abortions, we were heartened to hear of his commitment in this regard.

While some assert that language contained in variations of H.R. 3200, America's Affordable Health Choices Act, is sufficient to preclude Federal funds being used for abortion, we do not agree. If eliminating Federal funding of abortion is sincerely the goal, then a simple solution would be to include the Hyde Amendment to the version of H.R. 3200 that comes to the Floor - the intent and effect of which is understood by all Members.

This is a serious matter for us and for our constituents, and regardless of their views on abortion, many Members are opposed to Federal funding.

We respectfully request inclusion of the Hyde Amendment in H.R. 3200 as it comes to the Floor.

There were 29 signatories to the letter:

AL	05	Parker Griffith (D)	OH	01	Steve Driehaus (D)
AR	01	Marion Berry (D)		06	Charlie Wilson (D)
	04	Mike Ross (D)		09	Marcy Kaptur (D)
GA	08	Jim Marshall (D)		16	John A. Bocceri (D)
IA	03	Leonard Boswell (D)	OK	02	Dan Boren (D)
IL	03	Dan Lipinski (D)	PA	04	Jason Altmire (D)
	12	Jerry Costello (D)		10	Christopher Carney (D)
LA	03	Charlie Melancon (D)		12	John Murtha (D)
MI	01	Bart Stupak (D)		17	Tim Holden (D)
	05	Dale Kildee (D)	TN	04	Lincoln Davis (D)
MN	07	Collin Peterson (D)		08	John Tanner (D)
	08	James Oberstar (D)	TX	28	Henry Cuellar (D)
MS	01	Travis Childers (D)	WV	01	Alan Mollohan (D)
	04	Gene Taylor (D)		03	Nick Rahall (D)
NC	11	Heath Shuler (D)			