



# Looking Under the Hood

## “Taking a Closer Look at the Healthcare Debate”

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**A**s I write this, the healthcare reform debate has reached an all new frenzy regarding the idea of government run healthcare, or a public option. The idea of the government running healthcare has scared millions of Americans out of their wits. As pro-lifers, we should be especially concerned about the most pro-abortion administration in history “running” our healthcare.

Everyone agrees the one thousand page H.R. 3200 requires days and lawyers to digest. Nothing is clean and concise, yet there is a huge push to rush this incomprehensible bill through congress. Red flag if I ever saw one. Senator Jim Demint, R-South Carolina, said the president did not anticipate the average American looking under the hood at this legislation. As pro-lifers, what should we be looking for?

We should be looking for federally funded abortions. We cannot accept the use of taxpayer funds for abortion. The crafters of this bill have taken great pains to make it murky. Even amendments added since the uproar still allow for abortions in the public plan, which is subsidized by, you guessed it, the taxpayer. The Baptist Press also reports that both Senate and House bills would subsidize private plans that cover elective abortion.

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The result of these federal subsidies is 300,000 to 600,000 more abortions a year, according to Marie Vitale of LifeNews.com. She also makes a critical legislative point: a federal plan could also mean the nullification of many state abortion laws. Douglas Johnson, National Right to Life Committee legislative director, says these bills could create the biggest expansion of abortion in America since Roe v Wade.

But that is not all. Steve Ertelt, LifeNews.com editor, outlines a portion of H.R. 3200 where the government would fund health clinics in or near public schools.

These clinics would be administered by clinic sponsors, and the wording is such that groups like Planned Parenthood could operate these.

Planned Parenthood already receives \$350 million in government grants and contracts, and is closely associated with this administration. You see the reach of the pro-abortion agenda within this healthcare bill?

This is not healthcare. This is frightening. Given all the double talk and legal speak, we must demand a bill that **specifically** excludes abortion, that includes no mandates for abortion, and that maintains current restrictions on the use of federal funds for abortion. In no way do these criteria prevent other valid healthcare issues from being addressed. Americans want easy access to good, quality healthcare at a fair price. Abortion should not be such a ubiquitous part of this legislation.

If there were ever a time for you and me to take action, it is now. Call, write or visit your representatives and be heard. Ask questions, demand clarity. Looking under the hood is making a huge difference. Let's keep it up.



*For More information on contact info for your Senators and Representatives, visit [www.congress.org](http://www.congress.org) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) or click on the Healthcare Reform links in this E-Newsletter.*