



In Their Own Words: Anti-Choice Lawmakers Discover the Right to Privacy

As the House of Representatives took up health-care reform legislation,ⁱ anti-choice lawmakers suddenly claimed the belief that Americans' health-care decisions should be private – despite their own long, stubborn history of attempts to deny women the very same right. Perhaps in the future they will bring these newfound views to debates about reproductive health.

“Mr. Speaker, this is unprecedented. It is an unprecedented intrusion of government into one of the most personal areas of our lives.” - **Rep. Mac Thornberry (R-TX)**

-Rep. Thornberry has cast 113 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“The American people have spoken. They do not want the tentacles of the Federal Government reaching into their lives and controlling their personal health care decisions.” - **Rep. Dave Camp (R-MI)**

-Rep. Camp has cast 142 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Once the precedent is established that government may usurp individual decisions in the marketplace, what limitation remains on its power to order any other of our decisions as consumers?” - **Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)**

-Rep. McClintock has cast 4 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Will we choose the path to be in control of our own health, or will we choose to go the way of a European nanny state where government intrusive forces health choices upon us? ...The American people don't desire more oppressive, government in charge of their health. The people want to control their own lives.” – **Rep. Ted Poe (R-TX)**

-Rep. Poe has cast 13 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Americans have spoken loud and clear. We are saying ``no" to more government control of our lives.” – **Rep. Connie Mack (R-FL)**

-Rep. Mack has cast 13 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“[This health-care bill] places control in the hands of government bureaucrats rather than letting Americans decide for themselves what is best for their families.” - **Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL)**

-Rep. Ros-Lehtinen has cast 148 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during her congressional career.

“If this bill is signed into law, Americans will not have the freedom to choose their doctor, their course of treatment, or their health plan.” - **Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS)**

-Rep. Tiahrt has cast 117 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“I'd like to take this opportunity to speak directly to the concerned citizens who fought so hard over the last year to protect the doctor-patient relationship and prevent a Federal Government takeover of health care.” - **Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC)**

-Rep. Wilson has cast 26 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Provisions in this legislation would restrict choice, and place greater control of health care in the hands of the federal government. For example, under the bill's terms, no longer would we exercise a number of freedoms that we now take for granted, such as whether to purchase health insurance or what medical benefits we feel are necessary. Under this bill, this is now a matter for the government to decide.” - **Rep. Scott Garrett (R-NJ)**

-Rep. Garrett has cast 19 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“[This legislation] violates your privacy, is policed by the IRS, intrudes on free choice...” – **Rep. Geoff Davis (R-KY)**

-Rep. Davis has cast 13 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Mr. Speaker, health-care decisions that we make for ourselves and for our families are some of the most important and personal in our lives... The trust that is necessary between caregiver and care receiver, between patients and their doctors, to believe that your health is not being undermined by the system will be permanently eroded, permanently damaged; and it is that trust that is the foundation of the morality of health care... So this is a sad day, yes, because

there are so many wonderful and positive and patient-centered solutions that we could have enacted. You see, we trust patients and families...As a physician, I know that when patients and their families and their doctors are not allowed to decide what they receive, we lose more than our health care system. We lose our morality. We lose our freedom. ” – **Rep. Tom Price (R-GA)**

-Rep. Price has cast 13 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“[This legislation] will become a wall of government between [families] and their doctor.” - **Rep. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)**

-Rep. Capito has cast 20 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during her congressional career.

“We don't need some agency to make decisions about our family's health care.” - **Rep. Adam Putnam (R-FL)**

-Rep. Putnam has cast 30 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Many constituents have also expressed their grave concerns about the insertion of the federal government into the precious patient-doctor relationship.” - **Rep. C.W. Bill Young (R-FL)**

-Rep. Young has cast 193 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“[Americans] fear government involvement in their medical decisions.” - **Rep. Jean Schmidt (R-OH)**

-Rep. Schmidt has cast 8 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during her congressional career.

“I cannot and will not support this government takeover of our health care system that will restrict choice... Almost everyone with whom I spoke mentioned the same concerns with the bill... especially the restriction of freedom... Under government-run health care, Washington will override their judgment and it will be government bureaucrats, not doctors, who prescribe regimens.” - **Rep. Todd Tiahrt (R-KS)**

-Rep. Tiahrt has cast 117 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

“Madam Speaker, today's vote defines what kind of America we want to live in. I for one know exactly what that is; it is the America I fought and sacrificed for, and all the freedoms we hold

dear... [including] freedom from bureaucrats coming between you and your doctor." - **Rep. Sam Johnson (R-TX)**

-Rep. Johnson has cast 156 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

"Ultimately, this bill is about robbing America of one of its greatest distinctives: freedom of the individual. It's about robbing the American citizen of power, and putting it in the hands of left-wing bureaucrats and elitists who think they know more about running people's lives than the people themselves do." - **Rep. Trent Franks (R-AZ)**

-Rep. Franks has cast 19 votes opposing reproductive freedom and privacy during his congressional career.

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ⁱ 156 CONG. REC. 43 (2010).