

FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

201 WEST PARK AVENUE
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D. MICHAEL MCCARRON, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



March 31, 2010

Sen. Jeff Atwater, President
312 Senate Office Building
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

Re: 2010 Federal Health Reform Legislation (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) Florida should opt-out of public funding for abortion coverage

Dear President Atwater:

I will appreciate the opportunity to speak with you and your staff at your earliest convenience regarding opt-out of abortion coverage provisions of the federal health reform law recently signed by President Obama on March 23, 2010.

The health insurance exchanges required by this law will have federally-prescribed compliance requirements which have to be met in order to participate and receive federal subsidies. A grave concern is that unless blocked by a State legislature, these health insurance exchanges will be able to provide abortion coverage with public funding.

The federal health care reform law allows States to pass laws prohibiting these exchanges from offering abortion coverage. Florida has never offered health insurance coverage for abortion except in medically necessary instances in which the life of the mother is endangered or in cases of rape or incest. *Renee B. v. Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (2001)* and *A Choice for Women v. Florida Agency for Health Care Administration* provide precedent to preclude elective abortions in Medicaid.

Enclosed is draft legislation that will ensure Florida's existing precedent against taxpayer funds for elective abortions is maintained in its health insurance exchange.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D. Michael McCarron". The signature is written in a cursive style.

D. Michael McCarron
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Larry Cretul, Speaker of the House

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Rep. Larry Cretul, Speaker of the House
420 The Capitol
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399

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Florida should opt-out of public funding for abortion coverage**

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D. Michael McCarron
Executive Director

cc: The Honorable Jeff Atwater, President of the Senate