

DEBUNKING THE MYTH-BUSTERS: ABORTION IS IN HEALTH BILLS

Catholic League president Bill Donohue commented today on the health care bills:

In today's New York *Daily News*, there is an article seeking to debunk various myths about the health care bills. Unfortunately, the two reporters were guilty of floating the myth that "None of the bills working their way through Congress provides any federal funds for abortion." Thus does the *Daily News* join a list of other media outlets that have disseminated this nonsense; AP had the decency to reverse itself.

Abortion *is* in the bills. Here's the proof: Amendments to explicitly exclude abortion from the bills have been sponsored by Rep. Bart Stupak, Rep. Joe Pitts, Rep. Eric Cantor, Rep. Sam Johnson, Sen. Mike Enzi and Sen. Orrin Hatch. In every case, they lost. Want more proof? When Rep. Pitts asked Committee Counsel about whether the amendment by Rep. Lois Capps would allow the secretary of health and human services (HHS) to cover abortion in the public plan, he was told it did. And since HHS head Kathleen Sebelius supports partial-birth abortion, is there anyone in his right mind who thinks she would balk at authorizing abortion? Want more proof? On Aug. 10, when Rep. Zoe Lofgren was specifically asked about this subject, she said, "Abortion will be covered as a benefit by one or more of the healthcare plans available to Americans, and I think it should be."

Let's be frank: abortion is no more mentioned specifically in these bills than appendectomies are, but because both are legal, both are understood to be included. That is why attempts to exclude abortion were made. That they failed should settle the issue. Yet the following pro-abortion groups

continue to lie and say abortion isn't covered: NARAL, Planned Parenthood, Center for American Progress and People for the American Way. Interestingly, *MoveOn.org* is firing e-mails all over debunking five myths about the bills. It is correct on all five. Noticeably absent from its list is abortion. That's because they know it's in the bills.