

To the editor:

Rep. Bart Stupak's op-ed ("What My Amendment Won't Do", 12/9/09) states his amendment to the House health care bill simply continues current federal restrictions on abortion funding.

Always be wary of politicians trying to pass amendments despite claiming they actually won't change anything. Stupak claims his amendment is "completely consistent with the Hyde Amendment," which restricts federal Medicaid dollars from paying for abortions except in the direst circumstances.

But Stupak's amendment is actually Hyde on steroids. It would effectively ban private insurance coverage of abortion services – even when women pay the full out-of-pocket premiums. AAUW is proud to be part of the Stop Stupak coalition, which lobbied successfully to block insertion of the amendment into the Senate bill. Rep. Stupak can try to sell it as a "no harm, no foul" provision, but the women of America aren't buying it.

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