

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

President Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20500  
July 21, 2010

Dear President Obama,

I am deeply concerned by your recent decision to exclude abortion coverage from high-risk pools. Historically, there has been a consensus that women who need abortions to save their lives and preserve their health should be able to get them. This Health and Human Services ruling undercuts that consensus and undermines women's health.

In particular your decision will hurt women with pre-existing conditions who are most vulnerable for high-risk pregnancies, the very women who may need to terminate their pregnancies because of the risk it poses to their own health. In addition, I believe this rule goes beyond current law and further erodes women's right to purchase abortion coverage with their own private funds.

High-risk pools were designed to be a transitional program as the federal government works to create the health insurance exchanges which will take effect in 2014 – not a forum to further roll back a woman's right to choose. I am concerned that this rule treats abortion care differently than any other medical procedure in the new high-risk pools. Though I recognize that once the exchange is operational, women will have the option to choose a plan that includes abortion coverage, albeit with the Executive Order in effect and the "Nelson" language applied, I feel strongly that this new rule sets a troublesome precedent for future action and urge you to repeal it.

Sincerely,

  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress