



NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

H.R. 3 / Smith Bill

TOOLKIT FOR ACTION



## What's in this toolkit?

1. Smith Bill One-Pager
2. Sample Action Alert
3. Sample Letter for Letter Writing Campaign
4. Sample Op-Ed in English and Spanish

## EXTREME ANTI-CHOICE POLICY

Vote **NO** on H.R. 3 – The so-called “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act”

### H.R. 3

**Main Sponsor:**

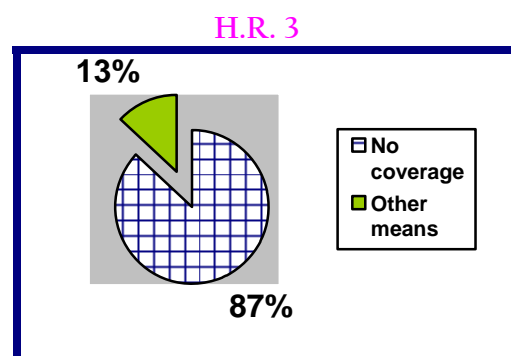
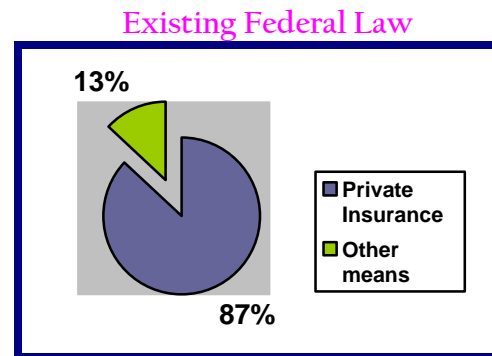
Co-Sponsors: 173  
Chris Smith (R-NJ)

This bill is not just about a pro-or anti-choice vote. It is about fundamentally eroding the right of all women to prioritize their health and well-being of their families. Furthermore, the purpose of H.R. 3 is to undermine the possibility of affordable abortions, which for our community means the disappearance of access altogether. We should work to make health care reform better not spend valuable time chipping away at coverage more than 80% of insured women currently have.

Although Latinas find themselves on a diverse spectrum with regards to their stance on abortion, most Latinas support women’s rights to the full range of reproductive health services, including prenatal care, contraception, and abortion. Lack of health insurance, limited health care access, language barriers, and immigration status directly affect a woman’s reproductive health and her ability to care for her family. By imposing **unfair tax burdens** on self-employed individuals and small businesses, the bill takes away a woman’s right to decide what is best for her and her family. H.R. 3 would also redefine the long-settled understanding of what constitutes federal funding of abortion and would also deny abortions to women in life threatening situations.

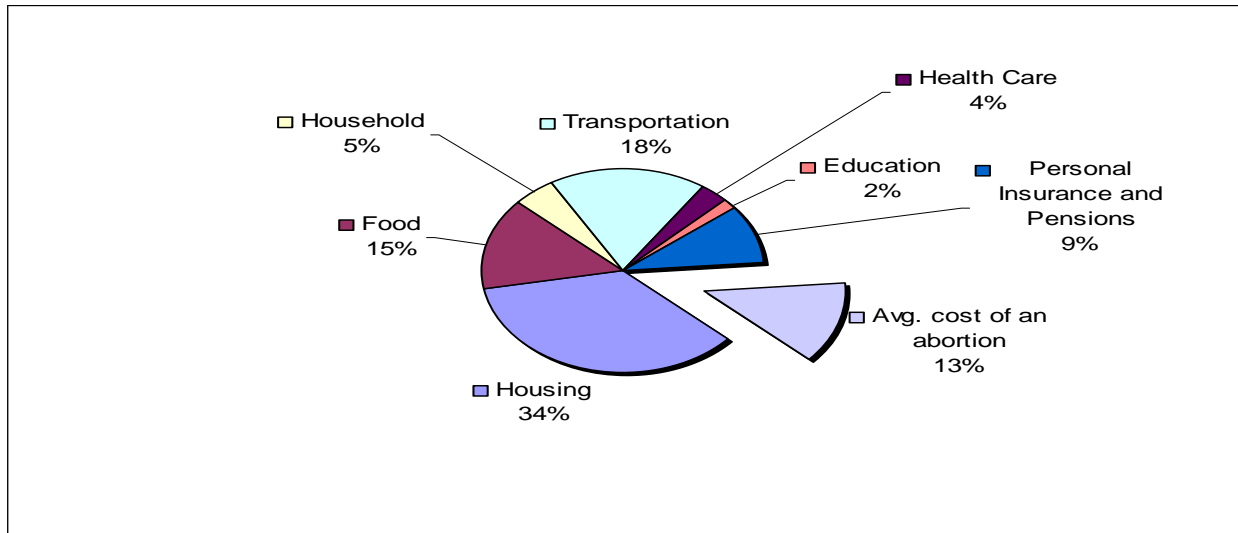
	Existing Federal Law	H.R. 3
Eliminate availability of abortion coverage in the private-insurance market.	--	X
Deny abortions to women in life threatening situations.	--	X
Force millions of families to pay taxes on their health insurance benefits if their plan includes abortion	--	X
Deny low-income women access to abortion care	X	X
Codify Hyde Amendment	--	X
Codify Helms Amendment	--	X
Permanently ban abortion coverage for federal employees	--	X
Codify ban on abortion for women in military hospitals overseas	--	X
Re-impose the ban on Washington, DC to use its own local funds for abortions	--	X
Undermines health care reform by destabilizing insurance market	--	X

### Available Funding for Abortions



## What sacrifices will a family be forced to make?

### Average Latino household expenses in relation to the average cost of an abortion



- 42% of women obtaining abortions have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty level (\$10,830 for a single woman with no children).
- Women denied abortion coverage will postpone paying for other basic needs like food, rent, heating and utilities in order to save money for an abortion.

### The High Cost to Latinas and All Women

- History tells us that making abortion expensive is not only impractical, it is unjust.
- 25% of all women obtaining abortions are Latinas.
- Forcing women into the shadows of health care has never improved families or communities.
- Narrowing of the rape and incest exceptions were taken out of the bill but the ability for hospitals to deny women an abortion, even if her life is in danger, was recently added. These are all ugly examples of the bill sponsors' anti-women stance. A complete disregard for women's safety and wellness can be found in every section of this legislation.

### Families Depend on Women's Earnings

- For the first time in the nation's history, women comprise half of the U.S. workforce (49.8%).
- In 2009, women were the sole breadwinners in one in three (34%) families with children.
- In a recession, this bill increases the tax burden on small businesses and families in an attempt to restrict a medical procedure.

### Hispanic Business Owners

- H.R. 3 would raise taxes on small business owners who offer insurance that covers abortion.
- Latinos constituted the largest minority business community and owned 6.6% of all U.S. firms, 3.7% of employer firms, and 7.4% of non-employer firms.

<sup>1</sup> Small businesses run by women will create one-third of all new jobs according to the Guardian Life Small Business Research Institute. Mark D. Wolf. Women-Owned Businesses: America's New Job Creation Engine. *Forbes*. Jan. 12, 2010. <http://www.forbes.com/2010/01/12/small-business-job-market-forbes-woman-entrepreneurs-economic-growth.html>. Accessed February 3, 2011.

<sup>2</sup> 28.2% of U.S. businesses are owned by women and 6.8% of U.S. businesses are owned by Latinos. U.S. Census Bureau, State & County QuickFacts, USA. Available at: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/00000.html>. Accessed February 3, 2011.

<sup>3</sup> Average Annual Expenditures of All Consumers Units by Race, Hispanic Origin, and Age of Householder – 2008. Available at: <http://www.census.gov/compendia/statab/2011/tables/11s0685.pdf>. Accessed February 3, 2011.

## SAMPLE E-ACTION ALERT

*Subject Line:*

**Stop the attack on women's rights**

*Body of Email:*

Dear [NAME],

Instead of fixing the economy or creating jobs, Congress is busy attacking women and families. The introduction of H.R. 3, the so-called “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act”, sponsored by Congressman Smith (NJ-4), is another attempt to push abortion further into the shadows of health care.

In a recession, Congress should be supporting health care access for our families. H.R. 3 would have a devastating impact on poor women and particularly Latinas and women of color. It is another callous attempt to restrict access to abortion at our expense.

- ❋ **Misguided priorities:** Instead of focusing on jobs and the economy, this legislation continues the drive to take away health care access from our nation’s uninsured and undoes years of advances in women’s health and rights.
- ❋ **Makes health care for families even more difficult:** This bill increases the tax burden on small businesses and families as part of a political attempt to restrict access to a legal medical procedure.
- ❋ **Penalizes hard working people:** Small businesses are the soul of Latino communities, and many Latinas are increasingly becoming the heads of households in the United States. H.R. 3 penalizes these hard working individuals by increasing their tax burden.

Because Congress is aggressively pushing these anti-choice measures, we must make our voices heard now. Make sure your Representatives know that you stand firmly in support of women’s rights and that attacking women and families is the wrong way to move this country forward.

**Please take action now and tell your Representative to vote no on H.R. 3.**

Sincerely,



## NATIONAL LATINA INSTITUTE FOR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Dear Honorable [NAME]:

I strongly urge you to oppose H.R. 3, the so-called “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.” The bill is a direct attack on all women and will disproportionately affect women of color and low-income women. In addition to the codification provisions of H.R. 3, the bill goes much further than current restrictions on public coverage of abortion services.

Abortion is a legal medical procedure that is part of a woman’s reproductive health and I strongly oppose any attempt to limit a woman’s freedom of her reproductive decisions. I also oppose penalizing businesses or insurance companies for fully covering women’s health needs. The government should support equity in health care, not support measures that increase disparities and harm women’s health.

This bill would have a devastating impact on poor women, particularly Latinas and communities of color and is another callous attempt to restrict access to abortion at our expense. History tells us that making abortion too expensive as a means to reduce abortion rates is not only impractical, it is unjust.

- 25% of all women obtaining abortions are Latinas
- 42% of women obtaining abortions have incomes below 100% of the federal poverty line. Between 2008 and 2009, the poverty rate increased for Hispanics from 23.2% to 25.3%

Low-income women who are denied abortion coverage have to postpone paying for other basic needs like food, rent, heating and utilities to save money needed for an abortion. In addition, the time needed to save money means that low-income women tend to have abortions two to three weeks later than other women. In some cases, women that cannot pay for an abortion resort to self-inducing abortion or seeking unsafe, illegal abortions from untrained, unlicensed practitioners. Women of color are disproportionately low-income and these conditions excessively impact these communities. Forcing women into the shadows of healthcare has never improved families or communities.

Codifying the Hyde Amendment, which already prohibits federal funding for abortion (except in the case of rape, incest and life endangerment), impairs the health of the tens of millions of women who rely on the government for their health care. These restrictions force the federal government to provide inadequate care for women who rely on Medicaid, women serving in the U.S. military, federal employees, women in federal prisons and women covered by the Indian Health Service.

Although the authors of H.R.3 attempted to quiet the public’s outcry against this bill by removing one word that narrowed the definition of rape, the removal of the word “forcible” does not correct the larger maladies inherent in the measure. The original cruel restrictions for victims of sexual violence demonstrate a complete disregard for women’s safety and well-being that can be found in every section of this bill.

I am extremely disappointed that attacking women’s liberties is the largest priority of this important congressional session instead of focusing on the economy, jobs or measures that strengthen women, families and businesses. The American public has demanded that the federal government focus on strengthening the economy and increasing employment. This measure does neither, and instead attacks women and populations that are suffering the most in the economic downturn.

**I urge you to take a stand against H.R. 3 and vote “NO” on this anti-woman bill.**

Sincerely,

Op-Ed to El Periodico  
McAllen, TX- Submitted 1/26/11

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*ENGLISH:*

**Focus on jobs and the economy, not attacking women and families!**

Elsa Valdez, Promotora, McAllen, TX

As a *promotora de salud* (health promoter) in the community, I am deeply disappointed to see the recent attack on women's health services demonstrated by the new Congressional leaders. I serve women in the community who face numerous barriers to reproductive health care and provide them with vital information regarding health programs and services that promote healthy families and communities. Often this means supporting women in their decisions to end an unplanned pregnancy; many who feel that they cannot raise additional children without the economic means to do so.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Chris Smith re-introduced a bill that would make it almost impossible for the most vulnerable, low-income women to access important reproductive health care services, specifically abortion. This bill was deemed so important by the Republican party, they designated it H.R. 3, immediately following in priority the bill that would repeal the advances in health care that was just accomplished by Congress last March.

Interestingly, instead of focusing on jobs and the economy as the new leaders promised to those who voted for them, this legislation is an assault on the promise of expanded health care access to our nation's uninsured - undoing years of advances in women's health access and rights.

On behalf of the women and families in our community, I urge our members of Congress to re-commit to focusing the dire economic situation in this country, instead of taking away a woman's ability to make the personal decisions she thinks is best for herself and her family.

*SPANISH:*

**¡Céntrese en los trabajos y la economía, no en atacar a las mujeres y las familias!**

Elsa Valdez, Promotora, McAllen, TX

Como promotora de salud en la comunidad estoy profundamente decepcionada al ver los recientes ataques contra los servicios de salud de la mujer demostrado por los nuevos líderes del congreso. Yo sirvo a las mujeres en la comunidad que enfrentan muchas barreras en el cuidado de la salud reproductiva y les proveo información vital con respecto a los programas de salud y los servicios que promueven familias y comunidades saludables. A menudo, esto significa apoyar a las mujeres en sus decisiones para terminar un embarazo imprevisto; muchas que sienten que no pueden criar a más niños por no tener los medios económicos que se requiere.

El 20 de enero, el Congresista Chris Smith introdujo de nuevo un proyectó de ley que haría casi imposible para las mujeres más vulnerables y mujeres de bajo ingreso acceder servicios importantes de la salud reproductiva, específicamente el aborto. Este proyecto de ley fue considerado tan importante por el Partido Republicano, que lo han designado H.R. 3, siguiendo inmediatamente después de la prioridad del proyecto de ley que derogaría los avances en el cuidado de la salud que se llevó a cabo en el Congreso el marzo pasado.

En vez de centrarse en los trabajos y la economía, como los nuevos líderes le prometieron a los que votaron por ellos, esta legislación continúa el impulso de quitar el acceso al cuidado de salud a las personas de la nación sin seguro y deshace años de avances en los derechos y la salud de la mujer.

En nombre de las mujeres y de las familias en nuestra comunidad, les insisto a nuestros miembros del congreso que se comprometan de nuevo a centrarse en la grave situación económica en este país, en lugar de quitar los servicios necesarios del cuidado de la salud y de limitar la capacidad de las mujeres de tomar decisiones personales sobre que es mejor para ellas y sus familias.