

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1505

COMMITTEES:

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SMALL BUSINESS

January 13, 2011

Do you oppose using Skype to perform abortions?

Join me in asking Secretary Sebelius about funding for "telemed abortions"

Dear Colleague,

You may have heard that Planned Parenthood Clinics in Iowa are using Skype-technology or more formally known as telemedicine or telehealth videoconferencing methods to dispense mifepristone, the abortion drug commonly known as RU-486, to patients without having a doctor present. I am concerned that this practice of "telemed abortions" may have received taxpayer funding and similar programs may receive taxpayer funding in the future, despite federal laws that prohibit taxpayer funding for abortion.

RU-486 is a dangerous drug that has been associated with at least 11 deaths and thousands of cases of excessive bleeding and infection. It is reported that Planned Parenthood Clinics in Iowa have already completed 1,900 telemed abortions. This practice must be stopped.

In Fiscal Year 2010, Congress provided the Department of Health and Human Services' Health Resources and Services Administration with \$11.6 million for its telehealth program. While telemedicine may be a positive means of providing certain health services, abortion is not health care, and dispensing RU-486 without a doctor present is both risky to the mother and deadly to the unborn child. U.S. taxpayers should not be forced to underwrite abortions.

If you do not believe taxpayer funding should be going to fund abortions or telemed abortions, please join me in signing on to the following letter to Secretary Sebelius. This letter will help us get to the bottom of how much funding has been appropriated for telemedicine, telemedicine equipment and how much of this funding potentially goes to provide telemed abortions. If you would like to sign on to the letter or have any questions, please contact Casaday Nguyen at (██████████) or 5-4426. Deadline to sign is COB Tuesday, January 25.

Sincerely,


Steve King
Member of Congress