

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 656

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 24, 2017

Mr. DUFFY (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MEADOWS, Mr. STEWART, Mr. PITTENGER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. LATTA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to allow for greater State flexibility with respect to excluding providers who are involved in abortions.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Women’s Public
5 Health and Safety Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCREASING STATE FLEXIBILITY IN DETERMINING**
2 **PARTICIPATION OF PROVIDERS WHO PER-**
3 **FORM, OR PARTICIPATE IN THE PERFORM-**
4 **ANCE OF, ABORTIONS.**

5 Section 1902 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1396a) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(23), by striking “sub-
8 section (g)” and inserting “subsection (g), sub-
9 section (ll),”; and

10 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
11 section:

12 “(ll) RULES WITH RESPECT TO DETERMINATION OF
13 PARTICIPATION OF PROVIDERS WHO PERFORM, OR PAR-
14 TICIPATE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF, ABORTIONS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning October 1,
16 2017, subject to paragraph (2), for purposes of this
17 title, a State, at its option, may establish criteria
18 with respect to the participation under the State
19 plan (or under a waiver of the plan) of an institu-
20 tion, agency, entity, or person who performs, or par-
21 ticipates in the performance of, abortions.

22 “(2) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1) shall not
23 apply to an abortion—

24 “(A) if the pregnancy is the result of an
25 act of rape or incest; or

1 “(B) in the case where a woman suffers
2 from a physical disorder, physical injury, or
3 physical illness that would, as certified by a
4 physician, place the woman in danger of death
5 unless an abortion is performed, including a
6 life-endangering physical condition caused by or
7 arising from the pregnancy itself.

8 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
9 section, the terms ‘institution’, ‘agency’, or ‘entity’
10 mean the entire legal institution, agency, or entity,
11 or any part thereof, including any institution, agen-
12 cy, or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is
13 under common control with such institution, agency,
14 or entity.”.

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