

MATTHEW E. BAKER, MEMBER

PO BOX 202068
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2068
PHONE: (717) 772-5371
FAX: (717) 705-1835

DISTRICT OFFICES:
74 MAIN STREET
WELLSBORO, PA 16901
PHONE: (570) 724-1390
FAX: (570) 724-2168

121 CANTON STREET
TROY, PA 16947
PHONE: (570) 297-3045
FAX: (570) 297-5551



House of Representatives

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMBERS

FROM: REP. MATT BAKER, MAJORITY CHAIRMAN
HOUSE HEALTH COMMITTEE

DATE: OCTOBER 5, 2011

SUBJECT: PROPOSED LEGISLATION: OPTING OUT OF ABORTION
COVERAGE IN STATE INSURANCE EXCHANGES

Under the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, each state beginning in 2014 will have in operation a health insurance exchange through which individuals and families can purchase insurance and, if eligible, can receive tax subsidies. This same act allows the states to enact laws prohibiting health insurance carriers that participate in their state's exchange from offering coverage for abortions.

Therefore, because taxpayer subsidies will be utilized to fund eligible individuals' and families' health insurance if purchased through the exchange, I am planning to introduce legislation which prohibits insurance carriers from offering coverage for elective abortions in the exchanges. The only exceptions are for the life of the mother, rape and incest. The legislation does not forbid, however, someone from purchasing coverage for elective abortions outside the exchange for a separate premium.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Gina Strine in my office at 772-5769 or via email at Gstrine@pahousegop.com

Thank you!