

Myth vs. Fact: Health Care Plan Provisions

Monday, Feb 05, 2007

MYTH: Under Governor Romney's Massachusetts Health Insurance Reform Plan, Abortion Services Are Offered As Part Of The Commonwealth Care Benefit Services Package.

FACT: The Commonwealth Care Benefit Services Package Was Developed By The Connector Authority – An Independent Authority Separate From The Governor's Office. *[but created by the bill that he signed; what did he expect might happen in a new Mass. bureaucracy?]*

The Commonwealth Care Package Is Designed And Administered By The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority. "The Connector administers two separate programs; Commonwealth Care and Commonwealth Choice. Commonwealth Care offers subsidized insurance to people whose annual incomes are up to 300% or *[sic]* the Federal Poverty Level." (Commonwealth Connector Official Website, www.mass.gov, Accessed 2/5/07)

The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority Is An Independent Public Authority And Their Decisions Were Made Separate Of The Romney Administration. "The Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority is an independent public authority created to implement significant portions of the new landmark health care reform legislation. The Connector assists qualified Massachusetts adult residents with the purchase of affordable health care coverage if they don't already have it." (Commonwealth Connector Official Website, www.mass.gov, Accessed 2/5/07)

FACT: Under Massachusetts Law And Court Precedent, If The State Is Funding Health Care Benefits – As It Is With The Subsidized Commonwealth Care Products – It Cannot Refuse To Fund Abortions.

In 1981, The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court Ruled That The Massachusetts Constitution Required Payment For Abortions For Medicaid-Eligible Women. (*Moe v. Secretary of Admin & Finance*, 1981)

- According To The Decision, When A State Subsidizes Medical Care, It Cannot Infringe On "The Exercise Of A Fundamental Right" Which The Court Interpreted As Access To **Medically Necessary Abortion Services**. (*Moe v. Secretary of Admin & Finance*, 1981)

In 1997, The Supreme Judicial Court Reaffirmed Its Position That A State-Subsidized Plan Must Offer "Medically Necessary Abortions." In *Moe*, "[W]e concluded that the State's failure to fund medically necessary abortions, while funding all other medically necessary procedures (including services in connection with childbirth), invaded a woman's constitutional right of choice to a degree that was not counterbalanced by the State's interest in the preservation of potential life." (*Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, Inc. v. Attorney General*, 1997)

MYTH: Governor Romney Has Not Fought To Promote A Culture Of Life In Massachusetts.

FACT: As Governor Of Massachusetts, When Governor Romney Has Been Presented With Legislation On Life Issues, He Has Sided With Life:

- Governor Romney Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Provided For The "Morning After Pill" Without A Prescription.
- Governor Romney Fought The Battle To Promote Abstinence Education In The Classroom.
- Governor Romney Vetoed Legislation That Would Have Redefined In Massachusetts The Longstanding Definition Of The Beginning Of Human Life From Fertilization To Implantation.
- Governor Romney Has Supported Parental Notification Laws And Opposed Efforts To Weaken Parental Involvement.
- Governor Romney Supports Adult Stem Cell Research But Has Opposed Efforts To Advance Embryo Destructive Research In Massachusetts And He Has Not Supported Public Funding For Embryo Destructive Research.