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AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE FOR
AMERICA ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, tonight as we prepare to pass a historic health care bill that provides expanded health care coverage to Americans and is more than sixty years in the making, I am concerned that we must first fight to block a direct assault on a woman's right to choose.

America's Affordable Health Choices Act is fair and equitable in its approach to abortion and respects the rights of those who want to purchase a plan that provides abortion coverage and those who do not. It guarantees that no public funds are used to pay for abortion services—codifying the long standing Hyde amendment.

The anti-choice Stupak Amendment seeks to take away a woman's right to pay for her own abortion services, forcing millions of women to retreat to the shadows and an era in which back alley abortions were too often the norm. That is why I will stand up this evening and vote against the Stupak Amendment—ensuring that every woman in this country has the reproductive freedom that she desires and that her mother and mother's mother fought so hard for.

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SPEECH OF

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Saturday, November 7, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I would like to express my strong opposition to the Stupak/Pitts Amendment, which unfortunately passed the House by a vote of 240–194. This amendment places a woman's right to choose at risk, for it would place new obstacles in the way of women seeking reproductive health care services. The Stupak Amendment goes further than existing laws. This amendment dictates which medical procedures are offered in the private market.

Health care reform is supposed to increase coverage. This amendment singles out women and reduces their coverage. Women's access to comprehensive reproductive health services is not just about equality between men and women but also equality along economic lines. This amendment sets up a system where only wealthier women could afford a safe abortion. It would prohibit low-income women who receive affordability tax credits from purchasing a private insurance plan that covers abortion, despite the fact that over 80 percent of health insurance plans currently cover abortion. In other words, a woman who happens to be low-income will be denied the right to purchase a health care plan with abortion coverage simply because she qualifies for afford-

ability tax credits. This is discriminatory, plain and simple.

Besides purchasing insurance in the exchange, the primary alternative for low-income individuals is the public option. Not only does this amendment prohibit access to abortion coverage if a low-income woman receives affordability tax credits in the exchange, but this amendment also prohibits the public option from providing abortion care, despite the fact that it would be funded through private premium dollars.

Under the Stupak Amendment, low-income women who either receive affordability tax credits or purchase insurance through the public option have to purchase a separate, single-service "abortion rider" policy. Not only does this idea discriminate against low-income women but it makes no sense either. Women who end up in the tough position of having to seek an abortion never planned on being in that situation. The vast majority of women will not choose to purchase an "abortion rider" policy because they do not plan on ever having an abortion, and when the day arises when they may need abortion coverage, unfortunately it will not be there for them.

The women of America should have access to their fundamental right to choose, regardless of their income level. I urge my colleagues to join me today in defense of that fundamental right.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 50TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF MR.
AND MRS. RICHARD K.
RAISANEN

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Madam Speaker, I respectfully request the attention of the House to pay recognition to an important day in the lives of two constituents and friends of mine, Mr. and Mrs. Rick Raisanen.

On December 4, 2009, Rick and Molly Raisanen will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Rick was born on November 27, 1939, and his wife, Molly, was born on July 7, 1940.

The couple met at the skating rink at Fort McClellan. They married on December 4, 1959 at Centurion Chapel at Fort McClellan.

Over the years, Rick and Molly have been blessed with two children, Keith and Kelli; and four grandchildren, Molly Kristen, Olivia, Emma Grace and Braden. Rick retired from Bell South and Molly retired from Jacksonville State University.

On Saturday, December 5, the couple along with their family and friends will celebrate their anniversary at Saks Baptist Church.

I would like to congratulate my friends, Rick and Molly, for reaching this important milestone in their lives. They are shining examples of love and dedication for us all, and I wish them and their family all the best at this important occasion.

IN APPRECIATION OF BURLINGAME
CITY COUNCILWOMAN ROSALIE
O'MAHONY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 16, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, for twenty years, the people of Burlingame, California have depended on Rosalie O'Mahony's intelligence, hard work and love for her adopted city. First elected in 1989, Rosalie O'Mahony has served five terms on the City Council, including five separate stints as Burlingame's mayor.

To know Rosalie is to know her passion for her community. For the more than three decades that I have had the immense pleasure of Rosalie's friendship, we have never had a conversation where she did not speak about a person or group in need or an intersection that could be safer. Rosalie lives and breathes community service and our entire region has benefited greatly by her inspired decision to move to Burlingame in 1965.

The reason for her move was so that Rosalie could accept a job on the faculty of the College of San Mateo's mathematics department. For more than forty years she has shared her knowledge with generations of students and continues to do so now as an adjunct instructor. In a region where some of the best jobs are in technological fields, excellent math instruction in our local colleges is vital to our area's economic success and Rosalie O'Mahony certainly has been a big part of that success.

Madam Speaker, one mention in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD could not possibly hold all of the accomplishments of this incredible woman. Her community service includes being chair of The American Cancer Society and board member of The Easter Seal Society and The Suicide and Crisis Prevention Center. She also served on the San Mateo County Grand Jury and has been—or continues to be—a member of The Burlingame Newcomers Club, The Irish Literary and Historical Society, the Burlingame Historical Society, Burlingame Beautification Commission, the San Mateo County Transportation Citizens' Advisory Committee and the Burlingame Aquatic Foundation.

As part of her official duties, Rosalie has represented her city on the Airport Roundtable, the County Emergency Services Committee, the San Mateo County Investment Oversight Committee, City and County Association of Governments, Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority.

In recognition of her years of service to her community, earlier this year Councilwoman O'Mahony was chosen as Burlingame's Citizen of the Year for 2009.

Madam Speaker, any day that includes a chat with Rosalie O'Mahony is a day where I learn something new. Burlingame won't be quite the same without Rosalie on the City Council but, without a doubt, Burlingame would not be the city it is today had Rosalie not moved here and volunteered to serve.