

**ABORTION SUBSIDY OPT-OUT OF PATIENT PROTECTION AND
AFFORDABLE CARE ACT (OBAMACARE)**

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FEDERAL LAW ALLOWS OPT-OUT

The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), also known as Obamacare, was signed into law on March 23, 2010. One of the provisions of the law requires the States to operate and maintain “health insurance exchanges.” Insurance plans must meet the federally-prescribed compliance requirements in order to participate in the exchanges. These requirements include offering the essential health benefits package established by the federal Department of Health and Human Services. Participating plans are eligible to receive federal subsidies for those who qualify for insurance under the exchanges.

PPACA specifically allows States to affirmatively prohibit coverage of abortions under the qualified health plans offered through the exchanges. The President’s Executive Order signed March 24, 2010 does not alter the opt-out provision. The states of Arizona, Missouri, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana have already enacted abortion opt-out provisions.

WISCONSIN LAW ON TAXPAYER ABORTION COVERAGE

Since the late 1970s, Wisconsin law prohibits the funds of the state, a local government, or a long-term care district and federal funds passing through the state treasury to be used to pay for the performance of an abortion (s. 20.927).

PROPOSED OPT-OUT

Under the Zipperer-Vos provision, a qualified health plan as defined in the federal law that is offered through any exchange operating in the State of Wisconsin may not cover any abortion whose performance is ineligible for funding under current Wisconsin law, s. 20.927.

WISCONSIN RIGHT TO LIFE STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE ZIPPERER-VOS PROVISION

