



Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life

**News Release**

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## **HEALTH CARE RATIONING: Will Congressman Walz protect his constituents or not?**

With votes expected very soon in Congress concerning health care, it is time for Congressman Walz to defend his constituents' ability to receive adequate health care. Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life (MCCL) highlighted the very real threat of rationed health care under proposals being advanced in Washington, D.C.

"The current legislation in Congress, on which Congressman Walz will vote yes or no, will lead to the denial of care," said MCCL Executive Director Scott Fischbach.

A substantial part of health care subsidies, under current proposals, would be paid for through a reduction of Medicare funding for older citizens in order to cover the uninsured.

Additionally, there is no protective language in the Senate Health Education, Labor and Pension Committee (HELP) bill (unnumbered) or the House bill (H.R. 3200) to guarantee that the government cannot use "comparative effectiveness" research using "quality-adjusted life years" (QALY) or other measures to compel or encourage denial of lifesaving medical treatment, food, or fluids based on a patient's age, disability or so-called quality of life.

Funding these proposed health care "reforms" will be unsustainable, which will lead to the rationing of health care. Efforts to push patients and older people to prepare advance directives may in practice not center on respect for an individual's wishes, but rather on persuading or pressuring them to agree to less treatment as a cost-saving measure.

"With the denial of health care will come the unfortunate deaths of loved ones—deaths which could have been prevented," Fischbach predicted. "What a tragedy this would be, a loss no family should have to bear."

Congressman Walz needs to fight against these proposals that would deny his constituents of their health care. It is important that citizens make their voices heard before Congressman Walz casts his vote. Will Congressman Walz vote to protect his constituents' health care, or not?

MCCL is Minnesota's oldest and largest pro-life organization. For more information about MCCL, visit [www.mccl.org](http://www.mccl.org).

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*Minnesota's oldest and largest pro-life organization, MCCL has been dedicated for 41 years to the single issue of life itself.*

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