

The "Pro-Life" movement has often been accused of working towards its own agenda but now we get a rare glimpse at the true colors of the "Pro-Abortion" camp as the nation debates the issue of national health care. The Health care debate is an entirely different issue with its own pitfalls about which conservatives have very real concerns-or at least it should be.

Now the abortion issue has reared its ugly head again as we try to form a plan to provide health care for every American. Pro-abortion people seem to be prepared to sacrifice the whole plan to assure the "right" to abortion. Well-known liberal feminist Ellen Goodman has gone so far as to say we should declare the state of being female as a pre-existing condition so that female related conditions, such as pregnancy and the termination thereof, would have to be covered under the new plan. I recognize that this is just political rhetoric but seldom have I heard a more ridiculous proposition.

While all of us sympathize with the deprivation of the less fortunate segment of our society, I fail to see how we are discriminating against the poor by limiting their access to public administered funds so that they may commit an act that the majority of Americans still feel is morally wrong (even if an equally large majority also feel it is the individual's right to decide for herself-how is that for an enigma?).

The fact remains that all elective medical procedures are being excluded from the proposed plan, even many that may be important to more people that abortion could be. My dental care, as an adult, would not be covered nor would my eye glasses. Since the whole issue of abortion, at least from the Pro-Abortion perspective, is a matter of choice then why is there any question about whether or not abortion should be covered? Is it not a truly elective procedure?

Unfortunately we have not yet been successful in eliminating the scourge of abortion from our national shame. Certainly the rich will always be able to acquire the service even if it was illegal in this country. How can we consider it any different from any other elective service that only the rich or those with especially good extra coverage can afford? We won't even consider the question of the subtle genocide being perpetrated on the poor segment of our society with this free access to abortion and contraceptives.

Ms Goodman raised the concern about Mr. Clinton compromising on the issue of abortion to keep his health care proposal alive. I find this concern amusing as it is the conservatives who are most concerned about the president's famous tendency to compromise since he ran as a moderate and our biggest concern was that he would compromise to the liberal side of his party and further their agenda-something that he continues to show promise to do. How much of a compromise would it be to save something as important as this health care plan is to the administration and set aside the free access to abortion by the poor and middle class. Certainly even the middle class could still afford to pay for their own and if this is so important to you who insist on the "right" of abortion then take up a collection and provide for it yourselves.

Don't worry yet, Ms Goodman, your "right" to abort your own child is still intact and appears that it will remain so, at least for a while.