#### HOLMES COUNTY HERALD

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019 PAGE 11

Happy

/hniversari

January 17 - Tricia and

January 20 - Tommy and

Cali Clerk, Richard McCrory

CLASSIFIED ADS

Riley Poe, James and Jean

Hughes

Bonnie Haffey

January 21 - Mike and Julie Ellison

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095 fax 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

# Happy Birthday

January 17 Taylor, Edwards, Tripp Hammett, Freeman, Houston Barnes, Cothran, Kimberly Edwards, Adarrius Parrish McLaurin, Kayla Hunter

Linda Sylvia Brown, Hadleigh Nolan O'Reilly, Hawkins, Dixie Lane, Dr. Myron Courts, Nikki Meeks Emily Casey, Lela Bell Petiri Clark, Kerri Marsha Ables Hopper, James Powell, Jonathan Barrett, Barbara

January 19 - Susan Gib-January 18 - Sara L. son, Jessie Coleman, Kayley O'Reilly, Jordan Courts Jones, Frank Flowers, Susie Ingram, Strider McCrory, Davis, John Allen Autry,

Clydie Dickerson, Edith Ann Word, Traci Hammett, Cortavious Staldworth

January 20 - Hunter Blain, Melanie Bishop, Bubba Davis, Becky Christian, Stephanie Bilsky, Matthew Furch, Robert Rogers, Kirk Goering

January 21 - Brooks Hooker Harrell, Hugh Nichols, Shannon Pritchard, Kristan Carroll, Frankie Mc-Crory, Cindy Gibson, Shelby

Turner, Christina Barbee Coon, Carmen Cagle Brown, Andrew Roy

22 January - Kevin Newton, Angie Blain, Sandra Loflin, Melissa Drennan, Billy Cash, Necie Cain, Marsha Jordan, Lynne Bevill January 23 - Joey Lawson, Renee Wigley Newton, Clay Rodgers, Bree Pepper Nolan,

Berry, Deborah Helen Cohea, Chuck Edwards, Heather Lane, Chris Nelson,

# Lawmakers urge agency to clarify illegality of Obama implementation of affordable care act with hidden abortion surcharge

enrolled in Affordable Care and Todd Young (R-Ind.). Act (ACA) health plans aren't subsidizing abortion low: services.

Hyde-Smith authored a rule, titled "Patient Protec- change Program Integrity," signed the letter.

makers wrote.

"The Hyde Amendment 1303. protects federal health care tive abortions and insurance dollars from funding elecated from this long-standing abortion. The ACA devicountry," they said.

The Senators also strongly country. encouraged HHS to strengthof ACA Section 1303.

U.S. Senators Cindy Hyde- Wyo.), Roy Blunt (R-Mo.), covered Smith (R-Miss.) and Roger Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Tim Wicker (R-Miss.) today en- Scott (R-S.C.), Deb Fischer suer must deposit these couraged the Trump admin- (R-Neb.), James Lankford separate elective abortion istration to move forward (R-Okla.), Steve Daines payments into "a separate with a final rule that would (R-Mont.), Thom Tillis (R- account that consists solely ensure pro-life consumers N.C.), Joni Ernst (R-Iowa), of such payments and that is

The letter can be read be- elective abortions.

## Dear Secretary Azar:

We write to express our letter to Health and Human support for the Department Services (HHS) Secretary of Health and Human Ser-Alex Azar that expresses vices (HHS) proposed rule, support for an HHS rule on titled "Patient Protection and ACA Section 1303. The Affordable Care Act; Extion and Affordable Care as it relates to changing the Act; Exchange Program In- separate payment requiretegrity," would require poli- ment in Section 1303 of the cy holders to submit separate Patient Protection and Afpayments for basic insurance fordable Care Act (ACA). and additional coverage for The proposed rule aligns abortion. In all, 14 Senators with the clear meaning and congressional intent of Sec-"The proposed rule aligns tion 1303 by eliminating the with the clear meaning and hidden abortion surcharge in congressional intent of Sec- many ACA plans. We also tion 1303 by eliminating the request that the final rule hidden abortion surcharge in clarify the illegality of the many ACA plans," the law- previous Administration's interpretation of Section

The Hyde Amendment dollars from funding elec- protects federal health care plans that include elective tive abortions and insurance abortion. The ACA devi- plans that include elective precedent by creating its ated from this long-standing own funding stream making precedent by creating its taxpayer dollars available to own funding stream making buy abortion-covering health taxpayer dollars available to insurance plans in ACA buy abortion-covering health exchanges throughout the insurance plans in ACA exchanges throughout the

Section 1303 of the ACA 1303 is straightforward and en the final rule to clarify the requires qualified health congressional intent is clear. illegality of the Obama ad- plans (QHPs) that cover We are concerned that the ministration's interpretation elective abortions to fund them by collecting a sepa- to adequately acknowledge

• The health insurance isused exclusively to pay" for

During a legislative debate on Section 1303, then-Senator Ben Nelson (D-Neb.), restated what was clear from the language of the text itself: "You have to write two checks: one for the basic policy and one for the additional coverage for abortion."[2]

The Obama Administration undermined this requirement through subsequent regulations. Despite the plain meaning of the text, it interpreted "separate" to mean "together." The regulations stated that the requirement could be satisfied by "sending the enrollee a single monthly invoice or bill that separately itemizes the premium amount for non-excepted abortion services" and by not requiring the QHP issuer to "separately identify the premium for non-excepted abortion services on the monthly premium bill."[3] In other words, "separate" payments the could be made "together." The Obama Administration's misinterpretation created a hidden abortion surcharge on many health care plans in exchanges throughout the nation.

The meaning of Section proposed rule's analysis fails

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1-17,24,31;2-7p



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"The Obama Administra- rate payment (sometimes the illegality of the prior tion's misinterpretation cre- referred to as an abortion regulation. We ask that the ated a hidden abortion sur- surcharge) from each bencharge on many health care eficiary and depositing these plans in exchanges through- payments into a separate acout the nation," the letter count. This surcharge was said. "The meaning of Sec- created to provide transtion 1303 is straightforward parency for consumers by and congressional intent is clearly differentiating the of Section 1303. Congress clear. We are concerned that abortion surcharge. Section the proposed rule's analy- 1303 includes the following payment and the current sis fails to adequately ac- requirements[1]: knowledge the illegality of • The health insurance isthe prior regulation. We ask suer must not use the subsidy that the final rule directly ad- amount to pay for any elecdresses this concern." tive abortion

In addition to Hyde-Smith • The health insurance isand Wicker, the letter was suer must "collect from each signed by Senators James plan" a "separate payment" Inhofe (R-Okla.), Mike Enzi of not less than \$1 per month (R-Wyo.), John Barrasso (R- for any elective abortions promptly.

final rule directly addresses this concern.

We thank HHS for issuing new regulations that align with the clear meaning and congressional intent clearly required a distinct regulations instead allow the abortion surcharge to be hidden within the broader premium.

This proposed rule provides important and long overdue protections. We strongly encourage the Department to finalize it

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