

TALKING POINTS

In opposition to HR1814 & S.862 (aka the EACH Act)

The EACH Act should be opposed for many reasons:

- * It's unenforceable. There is no way the IRS would be able to accurately determine what a person's religious beliefs are, much less how "sincerely held" they are. Therefore, ANYONE, whether they really refuse medical care or not, will be able to say they have religious beliefs against medical care and use that as an excuse to be exempted from the Affordable Care Act's mandate to buy health insurance. It would gut the Act.
- * Many sincere religious people object to only SOME kinds of medical treatment. Christian Scientists, for example, have broken bones set, get pre-natal and birth care, and often end up rushing to the emergency room when their prayers fail to heal them. If they are not covered by insurance, taxpayers must fill the gap.
- * Even those objecting to ALL medical intervention will still receive it when they are unable to refuse it, say, after a car accident, and taxpayers must then pay the entire cost of that care also.
- * The CBO has just released a fiscal analysis indicating that the bill could increase the number of uninsured by 500,000 persons each year and cost \$1.5 billion over ten years.
- * The House bill has been pushed forward without due process, with no public hearing, no committee markup, no fiscal analysis
- * Parents who send children to religious schools are not exempt from taxes that support public schools. Religious people shouldn't be exempt from this tax either.
- * Children in uninsured families are particularly at risk. It's one thing for an adult to refuse medical treatment for himself, but children should be insured and therefore able to receive lifesaving care until they are old enough to decide for themselves.