



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE  
COST ESTIMATE**

February 28, 2011

**H.R. 358  
Protect Life Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
on February 15, 2011*

H.R. 358 would amend section 1303 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Public Law 111-148) to prohibit the use of federal funds provided under that Act to pay for abortion services or health costs of any health plan that provides abortion services, except in cases of rape or incest, or when the life of the pregnant woman is in danger. The bill would require that qualified health plans offering coverage of abortion services, other than under those excepted circumstances, through health insurance exchanges collect separate premiums for such coverage. In addition, any such plans would have to provide identical plans without such abortion coverage through the exchanges. The bill would preserve state conscience protection laws and expand nondiscrimination rules for health care providers that decline to engage in abortion-related activities.

Current federal law prohibits the use of federal funds to pay for abortion services and requires that qualified health plans providing abortion services under circumstances aside from those listed above collect separate premiums. Similarly, current federal and state laws protect the right of health care providers to decline to engage in abortion-related activities.

CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 358 could affect direct spending; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures apply. However, because H.R. 358 overlaps current federal and state laws, CBO expects that enactment would have little effect on coverage offered by qualified health plans. Consequently, CBO estimates that the federal budgetary effects would be negligible for each year.

H.R. 358 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.