

## **Bilbray playing politics to undermine women's health**

While unemployment hovers at 10 percent and our economy continues to struggle, House Republican leaders apparently can find nothing better to do than push forward legislation restricting access to health care. Last week's passage of House Resolution 358 is the latest and most egregious example of the House Republican leaders' efforts to pander to social extremists by playing politics with women's health rather than turning their attention to the multitude of urgent issues facing our country.

H.R. 358 bundles several radical proposals, each of which is designed solely to undermine women's access to health care. The most devastating provision allows hospitals to deny life-saving abortion care to a woman, even in cases where her doctor deems that care to be necessary. Other aspects of the bill create loopholes designed to help insurance companies avoid newly established requirements that they provide birth control without charging co-pays.

Unfortunately, my congressman, Rep. Brian Bilbray, who has claimed to be pro-choice, joined House Republican leaders in this effort to play politics by voting to undermine women's health. Congressman Bilbray can better serve his constituents by supporting policies that protect, rather than undermine, women's health.

**SAM WARD**  
**Carlsbad**