

WASHINGTON—Today, U.S. Representative Mike Quigley (D-IL) delivered the following remarks on the House floor in response to the announcement of a rule that prohibits women in the new high-risk health insurance pools from purchasing full reproductive coverage with their own money.

Video of the speech is available [here](#) .

“Mister Speaker, I rise today because women’s reproductive rights are under attack. Four months ago we passed a health care bill to ensure that every man, woman and child in this country has access to the medical care they need.

But yesterday, a rule was announced that restricts choice coverage in the new high-risk insurance pools—even if the woman pays for that coverage with her own money. This rule means women with pre-existing conditions such as cancer, AIDS, diabetes—who have been denied coverage and are counting on the high-risk pools—won’t be able to get reproductive healthcare coverage. Not even if they pay for it with their own money.

This incomplete and conditional care is not what our mothers, daughters, sisters, and wives need. This is not the status quo. We must remember the health care bill we passed, protect a woman’s right to choose, and stop this harmful provision before it takes effect.”

Quigley was a [fierce advocate for women’s reproductive rights during the lead-up to the passage of health care reform](#) this spring. He was one of the only men to [speak on the House floor against the Stupak amendment](#) and continues to fight to make sure women are afforded the right of choice.