

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4316

April 13, 2011

Rosario Holguin  
Vice-President  
Women's Fund of El Paso  
P.O. Box 221374  
El Paso, TX 79913

Dear Rosario:

Thank you for contacting me regarding my vote on the Pence amendment and women's health issues in general. I appreciate your feedback on this very important topic.

I have always respected the right of women to have access to comprehensive health services. While I voted in favor of the Pence amendment to H.R. 1, the FY2011 Full Year Continuing Resolution, I opposed Republican efforts to eliminate all the Title X family planning funding, and I voted against other proposals to cut essential health, education, and social programs in that bill. Most importantly, however, I voted against the final passage of H.R. 1 and felt so strongly about the Republican-approved cuts included in the bill that I contacted the Senate Appropriations Committee urging them to oppose the cuts as well.

The Republican-approved cuts in H.R. 1 would:

- Cut \$1 billion for community health centers, which provide primary and preventive services that promote reductions in health disparities for low-income individuals, racial and ethnic minorities, rural communities and other underserved populations;
- Eliminate all Title X family planning funding, which provide services such as patient education and counseling; breast and pelvic examinations; breast and cervical cancer screening; sexually transmitted disease (STD) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) prevention education, counseling, testing and referral; and pregnancy diagnosis and counseling, and;
- Cut funding for programs that promote the health of pregnant women, infants and young children including the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) that provides food, counseling and support to millions of low-income pregnant women, new mothers and infants.

Indeed, the effects of these cuts would be detrimental to El Paso, and they are an important reason why I opposed the bill. Certainly, while I understand and respect the differing views on this vote, I believe my overall record on women's issues, not just this particular vote, more accurately reflects my support for women. In fact, if you visit Planned Parenthood's website and review their analysis of key votes, you will see that I have received positive marks for my support for comprehensive health services for low income women and women in the military.

In addition, over the years I have strongly supported provisions to improve access to critical health care services for women, including many of which were a part of the Affordable Care Act:

- Prohibit insurance companies from charging women higher rates, known as “gender rating,” simply due to gender, starting 2014. (Many insurance companies denied coverage or charged more for such “pre-existing conditions” as breast or cervical cancer, pregnancy, having had a C-section, or having been a victim of domestic violence);
- Prohibit insurance from dropping a women’s health coverage when they get sick or become pregnant;
- Provide free coverage for critical, life-saving preventive services, such as mammograms and colonoscopies;
- Improve the quality of care for millions of older women with chronic conditions, by providing incentives under Medicare for more coordinated care;
- Prohibit insurance companies from requiring women to obtain a pre-authorization or referral for access to ob-gyn care, and;
- Provide greater access to affordable health coverage for women, with the establishment of new Health Insurance Exchanges for the millions who do not have health insurance through an employer, starting 2014.

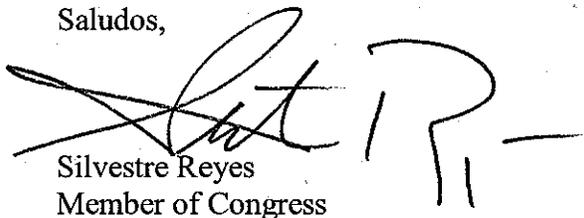
As the proud father of two daughters, and a proud “Grandpa” to my granddaughter, I can assure you that I care deeply about improving the quality of life for women and ensuring that women of all ages have access to quality and affordable health care. I am proud that my record over the past 15 years reflects this commitment.

Again, while I certainly understand the differing positions on this one vote, I hope this letter provides you with the information you requested and gives you a sense of my strong support and track record for the women of El Paso.

As always, please contact me or my staff if I can be of further assistance. Also, I urge you to visit my website at [www.house.gov/reyes](http://www.house.gov/reyes) to keep up with latest news and to sign-up for my e-newsletter. You can also follow me on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/CongressmanReyes>.

Keep up the great work at the Women’s Fund of El Paso.

Saludos,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Silvestre Reyes', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Silvestre Reyes  
Member of Congress