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Abortion Battles in the States

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Distinctly Catholic

The Washington Post had a good article this weekend about how many states are using a provision of the health care reform law to ban the sale of abortion coverage in insurance policies offered on the exchanges in their states.

This is a story that has, heretofore, slid under the radar. Pro-choice groups did not want to highlight the provision that allowed states to ban abortion coverage for obvious reasons. And anti-Obama groups did not want to highlight the fact that the President had adopted this provision which embodies both pro-life potential and a measure of federalism that undercuts the "government takeover" meme the anti-Obama forces have relied on to whip up opposition to the health care law.

It is often forgotten that the original *Roe v. Wade* decision allowed states wide latitude to regulate abortions in the latter stages of pregnancy. Sadly, the "health" exception became a truck through which abortion-on-demand could be driven. But, this debate about abortion coverage harkens back to the type of local control *Roe* permitted. That is a good thing. The more we debate abortion, the more we discuss it, the more people will come to see it for the human tragedy it is.

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