

[Foxx pushes to restrict abortion-training money](#) (Winston-Salem Journal – May 27, 2011)

By Bertrand M. Gutierrez

Medical schools would not be able to teach doctors how to perform abortions if the schools want access to a [\\$250 million](#) federal grant program under legislation written by [U.S.](#) Rep. Virginia Foxx, R-[N.C.](#), and passed by the House. The legislation — an amendment to a larger bill known as H.R. 1216 — would allow health centers to use money from the federal grant program to train doctors but not on abortion procedures,

[Foxx](#)

[spokesman](#)

[Aaron Groen](#)

said Thursday. "Should taxpayers foot the bill for elective abortions or to train abortion doctors? I don't think so," said

[Foxx](#)

, who represents the 5th District that includes much of Northwest North Carolina. "If organizations want to provide elective abortions or train abortion doctors, they need to find someone other than taxpayers to write the checks. Taxpayers should not be on the hook for subsidizing the abortion industry." Foxx's legislation passed Wednesday 234-182. Among North Carolina's 13-member delegation, all six Republicans as well as Democrats

[Mike McIntyre](#)

and

[Heath Shuler](#)

voted for the amendment. The five other Democrats, including

[Mel Watt](#)

, whose 12th District includes parts of Winston-Salem, voted against it. "This whole process has been an effort on their (GOP) part to micromanage decisions that should be made by the medical community rather than by members of

[Congress](#)

,

[Watt](#)

said. "They are overstepping their bounds." "Abortions are legal in this country," he continued, "and I don't know that we're ever going to stop training doctors from performing any medical procedure that's legal." A

[Wake Forest University](#)

[spokeswoman](#)

said that its training program for residents in obstetrics and gynecology must be approved by the

[Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education](#)

, a private nonprofit council that evaluates

[U.S.](#)

medical residency programs. Under the ACGME's rules, access to experience with abortions and how to manage complications must be part of the training, but a program or resident with religious or moral objections can't be required to undergo training or perform abortions. If a program restricts residents from performing abortions, it must still teach them how to handle complications. And programs can't stop residents from receiving training and performing abortions at another institution, the rules say. UNC

[Chapel Hill](#)

officials could not be reached.

[Melissa Reed](#)

,
[vice president of public policy](#)

for

[Planned Parenthood Health Systems](#)

in

[Raleigh](#)

, said the legislation would affect teaching schools nationwide. "Virginia Foxx's amendment undermines women's ability to be served by physicians who are adequately trained,"

[Reed](#)

said. "Medical schools rely on support so that they can provide training to young people from a variety of economic backgrounds. Abortion is basic health care for women, and it's vitally important that medical doctors have this training." Other changes in the legislation to the

[\\$250 million](#)

federal program deal with its management. Under the bill enacted last year to overhaul the health-care system, the

[U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#)

now can decide how to use

[\\$250 million](#)

over five years on teaching health centers,

[Groen](#)

said. Under Foxx's amendment, the spending allotment would be capped at

[\\$46 million](#)

a year, and

[Congress](#)

would decide how to spend the money, if at all. The amendment also says that no money available under the grant program can be used to perform abortions and that teaching health centers will not be eligible for money if they discriminate against providers that deny

[abortion services](#)

. The House bill is not expected to pass the

[Senate](#)

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[Douglas Johnson](#)

,
[legislative director](#)

of the

[anti-abortion group](#)

[National Right](#)

to Life, said even if the

[Senate](#)

does not act, it was important for the House to push its anti-abortion agenda. "It usually takes more than one

[Congress](#)

to accomplish worthwhile legislative goals,"

[Johnson](#)

said. "It is necessary often to build up momentum over several Congresses."