

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

January 13, 2022

The Honorable Mitch McConnell Senate Republican Leader S-230, The Capitol Washington, DC 20510 The Honorable Kevin McCarthy House Republican Leader H-204, The Capitol Washington, DC 20515

CC: Whip Steve Scalise; Conference Chair Elise Stefanik

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy

Thank you for the consistent pro-life leadership you have shown even as House and Senate Democrats have demonstrated their plan to use Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Appropriations legislation to strip out longstanding pro-life protections that have been in place for decades. We appreciate your unwavering commitment to ensuring that these pro-life protections are retained in any FY2022 final appropriations bill. We will vote against any federal funding bill that weakens or eliminates them.

For decades, federal appropriations legislation has included language to protect taxpayer money from funding and facilitating the killing of children alive but not yet born. The most famous of these protections, the Hyde Amendment, prevents direct taxpayer funding of abortion through programs like Medicaid. Since 1976 it has been renewed every year on a bipartisan basis, and it is credited with saving at least <u>2.4 million lives</u>. Polling has found, over and over, that the majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. As then-Senator Biden wrote to a constituent: "those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them."

In July 2021, House Democrats passed several appropriations bills that did not include the Hyde Amendment or other longstanding, bipartisan pro-life protections and, instead, added pro-abortion provisions. Many of these protections would also be eliminated by the nine appropriations bills released by the Senate Appropriations Committee on October 18, 2021.

The removal of these longstanding policies represents an extreme pro-abortion stance that needs to be immediately addressed. Taxpayers should not be forced to pay for abortion domestically or internationally. The consciences of health care providers who do not want to participate in

¹Michael J. New, Ph.D. "Addendum to Hyde @ 40: Analyzing the Impact of the Hyde Amendment." Charlotte Lozier Institute. July 21, 2020. https://lozierinstitute.org/addendum-to-hyde-40-analyzing-the-impact-of-the-hyde-amendment.

² Marist Poll. Americans' Opinion on Abortion: January 2021. https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/news-room/polls/kofc-americans-opinions-on-abortion012021.pdf

³ Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. "The 2016 Election: Clinton Vs. Trump Voters on American Health Care. October 2016. https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2016/10/POLITICO-Harvard-Poll-Oct-2016-Voters-Health-Care.pdf
⁴ Senator Joe Biden (D-DE). Letter. April 7, 1994.

https://www.nrlc.org/uploads/ObamaAbortionAgenda/BidenOnHydeAmendmentTwoLetters.pdf

abortion should be respected. Funding should not go to international organizations that are complicit in forced abortion and involuntary sterilization.

We respectfully urge you to continue to publicly oppose this pro-abortion extremism and to highlight the fact that, for FY 2022 appropriations legislation to become law, all longstanding pro-life provisions must be retained. We will vote against any legislation that does not retain them.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Smith Member of Congress

Jim Banks Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D. Member of Congress

Michelle Fischbach Member of Congress

Kat Cammack Member of Congress Kay Granger Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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> Bob Gibbs Member of Congress

> > Lauren Boebert Member of Congress

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