

May 27, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
United States House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders:

In anticipation of the President's FY22 budget, we write to you to urge you to retain the longstanding pro-life appropriations amendments including the Hyde Amendment in this year's appropriations. While House Appropriations Chairwoman DeLauro has pledged to eliminate these vital, status quo protections, they are critical longstanding policies that respect the dignity of the unborn and conscience of taxpayers.

In 1976, just three years after *Roe v. Wade*, the Hyde Amendment was first added to appropriations to prohibit federal funds from paying for elective abortions. This was in response to the government's funding of hundreds of thousands of abortions each year since *Roe*. The Supreme Court upheld the Hyde Amendment,¹ ruling that the legality of abortion did not obligate the funding of abortion.² To date, the Hyde Amendment has saved over 2.4 million lives.³

Congressman Hyde spoke of his amendment not simply as a means for Americans to wash their hands of the scourge of abortion, but as an instrument to advance the next front for human rights.

*For over two centuries of our national history, we have struggled to create a society of inclusion — we keep widening the circle of those for whom we are responsible — the aged, the infirm, the poor... This great trajectory in our national history has been shattered by *Roe v. Wade* and its progeny. By denying an entire class of human beings the welcome and protection of our laws, we have betrayed the best in our tradition.⁴*

The process of keeping taxpayers out of the abortion business that began with the first Hyde Amendment has since been consistently applied to other federal programs through additional amendments. Together, these important pro-life amendments included in appropriations in the decades since 1976 form the pro-life intent of Hyde. These Hyde-like amendments include protections for the vulnerable at home (Hyde, Dornan, Smith) and abroad (Helms, Siljander, Tiahrt), in research (Dickey-Wicker), for medical providers and others who object to abortion (Hyde-Weldon, Nickles).

¹ <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1979/79-1268>

² <https://lozierinstitute.org/the-hyde-amendment-is-constitutional-and-remains-critically-important/>

³ <https://lozierinstitute.org/addendum-to-hyde-40-analyzing-the-impact-of-the-hyde-amendment/>

⁴ <https://www.nationalreview.com/2017/11/henry-hyde-pro-life-hero-died-ten-years-ago/>

Americans strongly support the various amendments in the Hyde family. The prohibitions on funding for abortion abroad, including the Helms and Siljander amendments, are supported by 77% of Americans, including 64% of self-described “pro-choice” voters, 55% of Democrats, and 85% of Independents.⁵ Furthermore, protections like Hyde-Weldon that prevent discrimination against health care professionals, facilities, and insurance plans who object to providing, covering, or referring for abortion receive support from 83% of the American public.⁶

A strong majority of Americans support the first Hyde Amendment, with 58% of voters – including 31% of Democrats, 34% of self-described pro-choice voters, and 65% of Independents – opposing taxpayer funding of abortion.⁷ These lifesaving provisions across federal appropriations have been consistently supported by Republicans and Democrats in Congress for decades. Every president from Carter to Bush to Obama to Trump have signed into law appropriations incorporating critical, status quo protections.

As recently as 2006, then-Senator Biden was on the record opposing tax funding of abortion, saying, “I do not vote for funding for abortion... I won’t support public funding.” Yet when on the presidential campaign trail in 2019, he flip-flopped to support abortion funding, directly contradicting his longstanding position.

The impact of more than 2.4 million lives saved as a result of Congressman Hyde’s amendment and those amendments that followed cannot be measured. Congress has the duty and privilege to continue this legacy of protecting the vulnerable.⁸ There has never been such an important time for Congress to recognize the dignity of every life by reaffirming support and retaining the Hyde family of pro-life protections in FY22 funding.

Hyde saves lives.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Lila Rose
Founder and President
Live Action

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Penny Young Nance
CEO & President
Concerned Women for America
Legislative Action Committee

Donna Harrison M.D.
Chief Executive Officer
American Association of Pro-Life
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life Action &
Students for Life of America

Jeanne Mancini
President
March for Life Education &
Defense Fund

Greg Schleppenschach
Associate Director
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catherine Glenn Foster
President and CEO
Americans United for Life

⁵ <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/polls/american-abortion-opinions-remain-consistent.html>

⁶ <https://www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/upload/USCCB-Key-Takeaways-handout-final.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.kofc.org/en/news-room/polls/american-abortion-opinions-remain-consistent.html>

⁸ <http://www.hellohyde.org/>

Melissa Ohden
Executive Director
The Abortion Survivors Network

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics &
Religious Liberty Commission

Robin Pierucci, M.D., M.A.
Chair of the Pro-Life Committee,
Board Member
The American College of Pediatricians (ACPeds)

Michelle Cretella, MD
Executive Director
American College of Pediatricians

Dean Nelson
Executive Director
Human Coalition Action

Kelsey Hazzard
President
Secular Pro-Life

Colleen Holcomb
President
Eagle Forum

Autumn Leva
Vice President, Strategy
Family Policy Alliance

Evangelist Alveda C King
Pastoral Associate
Civil Rights for the Unborn,
Priests for Life

Tom Brejcha
President & Chief Counsel
Thomas More Society

Garrett Bess
Vice President
Heritage Action

Bradley Mattes
President
Life Issues Institute

Star Parker
President
Center for Urban Renewal
and Education (CURE)

Thomas A. Glessner
President
National Institute of Family &
Life Advocates (NIFLA)

Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director
Priests for Life

Terry Schilling
President
American Principles Project

Terrisa Bukovinac
President
Pro-Life San Francisco

Joseph E. Parker, Sr.
Director of Outreach and Intercession
American Family Association

Brian Burch
President
Catholic Vote

Deborah Tilden
Co-Founder
S.M.A.R.T. Women's Healthcare, division of
LifeVictory Enterprises LLC

Xavier Bisits
Vice President
Democrats for Life of America

Alexandra Snyder
CEO
Life Legal Defense Foundation

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Steven Ertelt
Editor
LifeNews.com

Joe Langfeld
Executive Director
Human Life Alliance

Amber S. Haskew
Director of Public Policy
Liberty Counsel Action

Mathew D. Staver
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Cheryl Sullenger
Senior Vice President
Operation Rescue

Cynthia Collins
Global Advisor
Operation Outcry

Joel Grewe
Executive Director
Generation Joshua

Millie Lace
Founder
Concepts of Truth, Inc.

Fr. Shenan J. Boquet
President
Human Life International

Ryan Bomberger
Co-founder
The Radiance Foundation

Dorothy Wallis
President and CEO
Caring To Love Ministries

Cathie Humbarger
CEO
Reprotection, Inc.

Roland C. Warren
President & CEO
Care Net

Joshua Edmonds
Executive Director
Georgia Life Alliance

Andrew Shirvell, J.D.
Founder & Executive Director
Florida Voice for the Unborn

John Helmberger
Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Family Council

Mike Fichter
President & CEO
Indiana Right to Life

Dale Bartscher
Executive Director
South Dakota Right to Life

Lois Anderson
Executive Director
Oregon Right to Life

Esther Ripplinger
Executive Director
Human Life of Washington

Eva Andrade
President/CEO
Hawaii Family Forum

Samuel H. Lee
Director
Campaign Life Missouri

Jason J. McGuire
Executive Director
New Yorkers for Constitutional Freedoms

Zachary Rodgers
Executive Director
Right to Life of Northeast Indiana

Julaine K. Appling
President
Wisconsin Family Action

Marc Tuttle
President
Right to Life of Indianapolis

Elisa Maria Martinez
Founder & Executive Director
New Mexico Alliance for Life

Ryan McCann
Executive Director
Indiana Family Institute

Chris Slattery
Founder and President
Expectant Mother Care-EMC
FrontLine Pregnancy Centers