

June 8, 2017

Dear Senator,

As the Senate has begun consideration of H.R. 1628, the “American Health Care Act,” we write to urge you to protect the policies that embrace the longstanding pro-life principle that abortion is not healthcare and should be neither subsidized nor promoted with public financing.

The “American Health Care Act” protects life in two ways. First, it includes language similar to the Hyde amendment that ensures abortion is not paid for or incentivized through the federal healthcare programs created in the Obamacare replacement, including tax credits for health insurance. Second if enacted, it would, for the first time, cut off federal Medicaid funding for certain abortion providers. Both of these pro-life policies are essential to the bill, and must be retained all the way to final passage.

Hyde Protections

In the 1970s the government started funding abortion through the Medicaid program because of legal interpretations, later affirmed by federal courts, that if abortion is not excluded by law, it is automatically included in healthcare programs. When this was discovered, Congressman Henry Hyde (R-IL) successfully offered an amendment to the annual health appropriations bill in 1976. We rejoice in the finding of a recent authoritative study that 2.13 million human lives – nearly one in every 150 Americans – have been saved because of the existence of the Hyde Amendment limitation on abortion funding.

These protections must be extended to new healthcare programs to maintain the principle that the federal government does not support the brutal practice of abortion. That is why the Republican platform rightly calls for a “permanent ban on federal funding and subsidies for abortion and healthcare plans that include abortion.” The platform continues, stating, “We will not fund or subsidize healthcare that includes abortion coverage.”^[i] President Trump also pledged his opposition to taxpayer funding for abortion in his 2016 letter to Pro-life Leaders.^[iii]

The American Health Care Act follows through on those promises by applying the principles of the Hyde amendment to the programs created to replace Obamacare. This condition must be retained by the Senate, and any new programs created by the Senate must also be shielded from paying for or financially incentivizing abortion.

Certain Abortion Providers

Planned Parenthood is the nation’s biggest seller of abortions, committing more than 300,000 abortions every year. Since *Roe v. Wade* they have taken over 7 million unborn lives while raking in billions of taxpayer dollars.

The American Health Care Act redirects the vast majority of federal funds away from abortion providers and instead funds community health centers. These centers combined with

rural health clinics outnumber Planned Parenthood facilities by at least 20 to one nationally and offer a full range of primary health care, unlike Planned Parenthood.

The FY16 reconciliation bill proved that the Senate can cut off funding for abortion providers through mandatory programs such as Medicaid, which constitutes roughly 80% of the abortion giant Planned Parenthood's government income. However, the FY16 bill was vetoed by President Obama. Now you have the opportunity to send the same language to President Trump who has pledged to sign it into law.

As the Senate considers and modifies the American Health Care Act, we call upon you to be vigilant in ensuring the Act protects life and does not fund abortion or the abortion industry. Without adequate protections in these areas, we would have no choice but to oppose the bill just as the pro-life movement opposed Obamacare.

The grassroots we represent expect nothing less.

Sincerely,

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^[i] [https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL\[1\]-ben_1468872234.pdf](https://prod-cdn-static.gop.com/media/documents/DRAFT_12_FINAL[1]-ben_1468872234.pdf)

^[ii] <https://www.sba-list.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Trump-Letter-on-ProLife-Coalition.pdf>