Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 26, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

To Speaker Pelosi, Republican Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader Schumer, and Minority Leader McConnell:

We write to express our unified opposition to Congressional Democrats' efforts to repeal the Hyde Amendment and other current-law, pro-life appropriations provisions. As part of their pro-abortion crusade, Democrats have taken direct aim at these long-standing, bipartisan protections that generally prevent the federal government from using taxpayer dollars to support abortion procedures.

Repealing these pro-life provisions would destroy nearly half a century of bipartisan consensus. Each year since 1976, Congress has included Hyde protections in annually enacted appropriations. No president in American history has ever vetoed an appropriations bill due to its inclusion of the Hyde Amendment.[1] Moreover, President Obama maintained the Hyde Amendment in each of his budget proposals.[2] As recent as June 2019, former Vice President Joe Biden supported the Hyde Amendment and acknowledged that it works harmoniously with federal funding for women's healthcare.[3]

Years of public polling indicates that repealing the Hyde Amendment is opposed by most of the American public.[4] Congressional Democrats now seek to further erode public trust in government by ignoring mainstream public opinion in favor of placating the radical Left.

The Hyde Amendment alone has saved the lives of over 2 million innocent babies [5] and continues to protect the conscience rights of a vast majority of Americans opposed to publicly funded abortions. We cannot allow the Hyde Amendment and other important pro-life safeguards to be decimated by Congressional Democrats. Accordingly, we pledge to vote against any government funding bill that eliminates or weakens the Hyde Amendment or other current-law, pro-life appropriations provisions.

Sincerely,

Jim Banks

Rep. Jim Banks (IN-3)
Chairman, Republican Study Committee

Steve Scalise

Rep. Steve Scalise (LA-1)
House Republican Whip

[1] Jon O. Shimabukuro, *Abortion: Judicial History and Legislative Response*, CRA (Sept. 9 2019) https://fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/RL33467.pdf#page=15
[2] *Obama Budget Advances Reproductive Health at Home & Abroad, But Leaves Too Many Low-Income Women Behind*, Center for Reproductive Rights (Feb. 10, 2016) https://www.reproductiverights.org/press-room/obama-budget-advances-reproductive-health-at-home-abroad-leaves-low-income-women-behind
[3] Christopher Donato, *Joe Biden supports Hyde Amendment, splits from 2020 Dems on abortion measure,* ABC (June 5, 2019) https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/joe-biden-supports-hyde-amendment-splits-2020-dems/story?id=63506190
[4] Bill Scher, *The Hyde Amendment Isn't Going Anywhere*, Real Clear Politics (June 10, 2019) https://www.realclearpolitics.com/articles/2019/06/10/the_hyde_amendment_isnt_going_anywhere_140528.html
[5] Mallory Quigley, *Hyde Amendment Has Saved More than 2 Million Lives,* SBA List (Sept. 27, 2016) https://www.sba-list.org/newsroom/press-releases/hyde-amendment-saved-2-million-lives

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