

December 16, 2013

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
H-232, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor  
Majority Leader  
H-329, The Capitol  
Washington DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Cantor:

We, the undersigned representing millions of Americans, strongly support enactment of protections against government funding of elective abortion. We thank you for your efforts to protect life for all Americans during the current Congress. We strongly urge you to continue to take the necessary steps to protect life by acting to pass the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act” (H.R. 7) early next year.

Each year numerous pro-life provisions including the Hyde Amendment, the Dornan Amendment, the Smith Amendment and the Helms Amendment need to be annually renewed on their respective funding bills to prohibit taxpayer funding of abortion in various agencies and federal programs. This bill (H.R. 7) would permanently codify these and other pro-life provisions in federal law to prevent federal funds from paying for abortion and pay for health care plans that include abortion, despite which political party is in power.

For the past 30 years, the Hyde Amendment has prevented the Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) appropriations bill from funding elective abortion or health care plans which include coverage of elective abortion. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), however, bypasses this restriction by directly appropriating funds to various health programs. Since the funding for the ACA is not appropriated through the LHHS bill, they are not subject to the Hyde Amendment. This bill would codify the Hyde Amendment and apply it to PPACA so that no taxpayer money could be used to pay for health care plans that include abortion coverage.

Additionally, Congress has authority over all District legislation and funding, as outlined in Article 1 of the Constitution. H.R. 7 would ensure that the Dornan Amendment is enforced to prevent any funding from being appropriated to pay for elective abortions in the District of Columbia. Numerous other pro-life protections exist in the annual appropriations bills to prevent government funding for abortion, though various attempts have been made to undermine these pro-life protections. For instance, the Smith Amendment on Financial Services prevents funding for administrative costs of plans with abortion under the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), and the Helms Amendment prevents funding abortion as a method of family planning in international aid.

Also, under the ACA there are several tax breaks for health plans on the federal and state exchanges which include elective abortions, on demand, as well as in medical savings accounts. H.R. 7 would prohibit abortion as a tax preferred benefit. While baby Tylenol and other health care items are not deductible medical expenses, abortion is. H.R. 7 eliminates this taxpayer abortion subsidy.

Again, on behalf of the millions of Americans we represent, we strongly encourage you to act to pass H.R. 7, the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.” The passage of this vitally important piece of legislation would permanently prohibit congressional funding of elective abortion.

Sincerely,