

# CONCERNED WOMEN *for* AMERICA

## GLOSSARY: THE HYDE AMENDMENT & FAMILY

### **Hyde Amendment**

- Introduced by Rep. Henry Hyde (R-Illinois)
- Originally passed in 1976, three years after the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *Roe v. Wade*
- Supreme Court ruled it constitutional in 1980 (*Harris v. McRae*)
- Prohibits taxpayer funding of abortion through Medicaid, Medicare disability, and other programs under Health and Human Services appropriations
- Includes exceptions that allow Medicaid funds to be used for abortions in cases of rape, incest, or the health of the mother
- Has saved an estimated 2.5 million lives since its establishment

Did You Know? Federal tax dollars funded roughly 25% of all abortions during the period between *Roe* and Hyde's implementation.

### **Dornan Amendment**

- Introduced by Rep. Bob Dornan (R-California)
- First approved as a rider in 1988
- Prohibits the District of Columbia (D.C.) from funding abortion through its Medicaid program
- Opponents in Congress have nullified it multiple times over the years, insisting that the ban should cover federal funds and claiming that all locally-collected revenues do not apply
- Saves an estimated 1,400-1,500 lives a year

Did You Know? Congress passed the D.C.'s budget with a weakened version of Dornan in 2009 and 2010. This allowed the District to fund 300 abortions before the amendment's reinstatement in 2011.

### **Hyde-Weldon Amendment**

- Introduced by Reps. Curt Weldon (R-Pennsylvania) and Henry Hyde (R-Illinois)
- First implemented in 2004
- Prohibits government discrimination against healthcare entities that refuse to cover or pay for abortions
- Defines the term "health care entities" to include a health insurance plan
- Does not require the existence of a moral or religious objection

Did You Know? In 2016, the Obama Administration unilaterally reinterpreted the Weldon Amendment to allow California to force all state-regulated health insurance plans to cover abortion on demand.

### **Nickles Amendment**

- Introduced by Sen. Don Nickles (R-Oklahoma)
- Allows health care entities that do not cover abortion to participate in the Medicare Advantage programs

Did You Know? Sen. Don Nickles was one of three senators who opposed Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's appointment to the Supreme Court. They cited her support for abortion rights.

### **Helms Amendment**

- Introduced by Sen. Jesse Helms (R-North Carolina)
- First approved in 1973
- Bans international aid from funding abortion as a method of family planning

Did You Know? In the early seventies, the Director of the Office of Population at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. Reimert Ravenholt, spearheaded the creation of an early abortion method that could be utilized in developing countries with scarce electricity. When the manual plastic vacuum aspirator prototype was complete, Ravenholt requested 100,000 products and planned a marketing campaign. The order was halted by members of his own staff in conscientious objection. Their correspondence with other pro-life advocates led to the Helms Amendment.

### **Siljander Amendment**

- Introduced by Rep. Mark Siljander (R-Michigan)
- First implemented in 1981
- Prohibits federal funding for lobbying for abortion overseas

Did You Know? 77% of Americans oppose using taxpayer dollars to promote abortion overseas.

### **Smith Amendment**

- Introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-New Jersey)
- First approved in 1995
- Prohibits the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) from funding elective abortion through the Federal Employee Health Benefits program

Did You Know? The Obama Administration violated the Smith amendment in 2013 when OPM instituted a network for Members of Congress and their staff to secure federally subsidized insurance that covered abortion.

### **Dickey-Wicker Amendment**

- Introduced by Reps. Jay Dickey (R-Arkansas) and Roger Wicker (R-Mississippi)
- First implemented in 1996
- Bans federal funding for research in which human embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury

Did You Know? On March 9, 2009, President Barack Obama issued an Executive Order to overturn President George W. Bush's limitations on federally funded embryonic stem cell research. The Dickey-Wicker Amendment was renewed two days later as part of the Omnibus Appropriations Act. Standing in conflict to the bill, it remains the only legal barrier to taxpayer funding of human embryo experimentation.