

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Office of the Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

In light of legislation that has recently been introduced in the House of Representatives, we write to advise you that we will oppose attempts to undermine pro-life protections, and to direct taxpayer dollars to fund abortion and health care plans that include abortion.

Abortion is not health care, and the majority of Americans oppose funding it with taxpayer dollars.¹ The Hyde Amendment, passed for the first time over forty years ago, protects all taxpayer dollars appropriated through the Labor-HHS appropriations bill from being used to pay for abortions or insurance plans covering abortions. This includes preventing federal Medicaid dollars from paying for abortions. According to one estimate, one in every nine people born to a mother on Medicaid is alive because of the Hyde amendment.² Research indicates that, since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has saved the lives of over 2 million unborn children.³ The Hyde Amendment and other similar pro-life legislative protections must be preserved.

“The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Woman Act,” H.R. 771, from the 115th Congress is an example of legislation that would eliminate the Hyde Amendment. It would require the federal government to provide abortion through Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and in its capacity as an employer and health care provider. Women and children deserve better than abortion. It is a brutal procedure that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. This human rights abuse should not be paid for or encouraged by the U.S. Government.

Another example, “The Medicare for All Act of 2019,” H.R. 1384, explicitly undermines the Hyde Amendment. This legislation states that no current provision of law that “restrict[s] the use of Federal funds for any reproductive health service” will apply to the funding in the bill. In other words, the Hyde Amendment would not apply to the new Medicare funds. These provisions reflect an extreme abortion agenda that is opposed by the majority of Americans.

Legislation that seeks to change funding within the framework of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may also undermine pro-life protections. The ACA departed dramatically from the longstanding Hyde Amendment principle. It not only lacked statutory protection against funding abortion, it allowed taxpayer dollars to fund insurance plans that cover abortion on demand.

¹ <https://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/communications/american-attitudes-abortion-knights-of-columbus-marist-poll-slides.pdf>

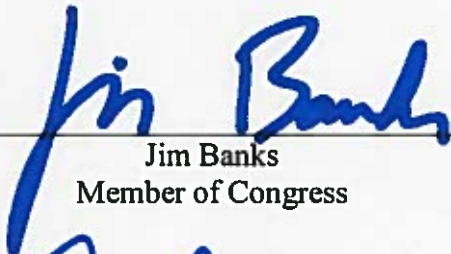
² <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Hyde-@-40-Executive-Summary-updated-1.pdf>

³ https://s27589.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/OP_hyde_9.28.3.pdf

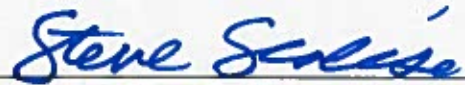
There has been interest in legislation providing mandatory appropriations to fund reinsurance and cost-sharing reduction (CSR) subsidies for ACA plans. As this legislation is considered, please keep in mind that if abortion is not explicitly excluded from health care programs and funding, it is included by default. Any failure to ensure that these payments do not support health insurance plans that cover abortion presents a serious pro-life problem. Without protection, this legislation would statutorily authorize a new abortion subsidy.

As you know, President Donald Trump has committed to “veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any stage.” We are grateful for this strong pro-life commitment, and we will stand with him in defending protections like the Hyde Amendment that prevent taxpayer dollars from funding abortion and plans that include abortion. As you consider health care policy in the 116th Congress, we urge you to ensure that the Hyde Amendment is extended to cover all relevant funding.

Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress



David Rouzer
Member of Congress



Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress



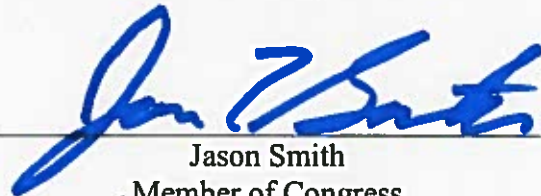
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Billy Long
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



Rick W. Allen
Member of Congress



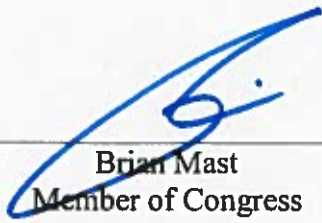
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



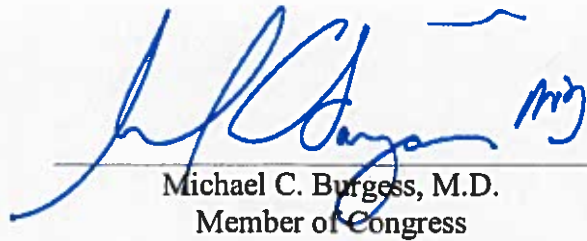
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress



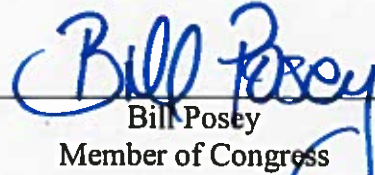
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



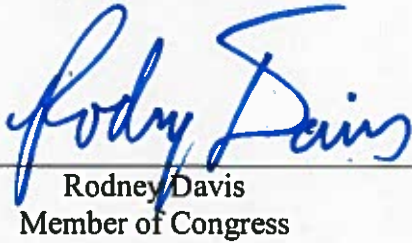
Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
Member of Congress



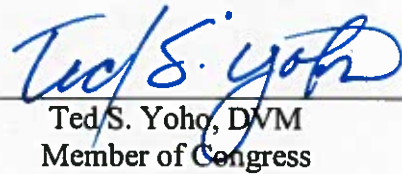
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress



Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress



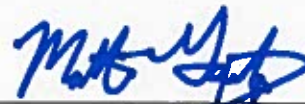
Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Ted S. Yoho, DVM
Member of Congress



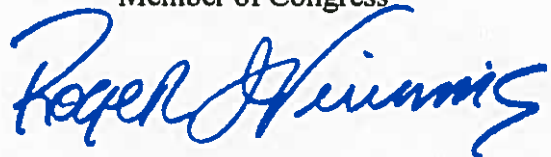
Mark Walker
Member of Congress



Matt Gaetz
Member of Congress



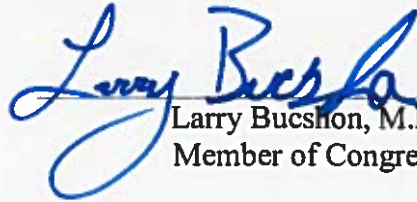
Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



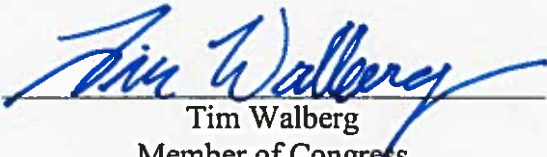
Roger Williams
Member of Congress




Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



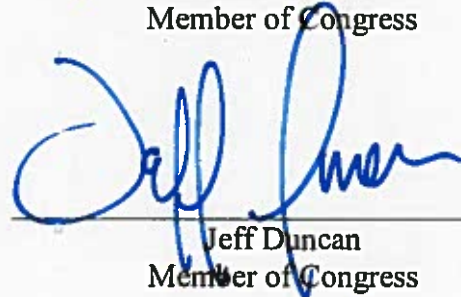
Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



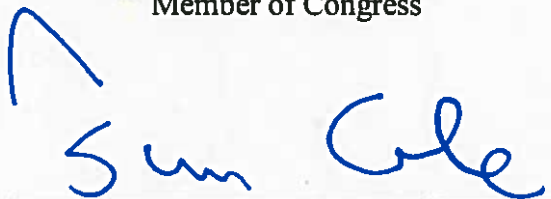
Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



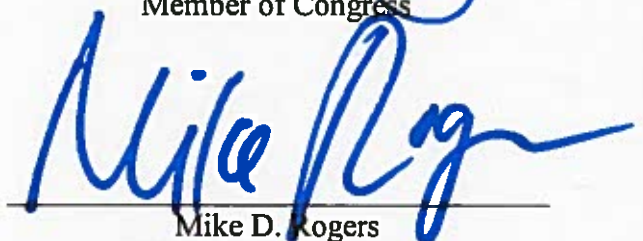
John Shimkus
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress



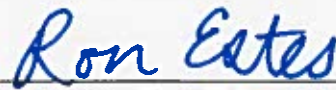
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers
Member of Congress



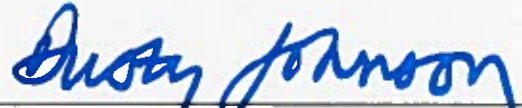
French Hill
Member of Congress



Ron Estes
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress




Mike Bost
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



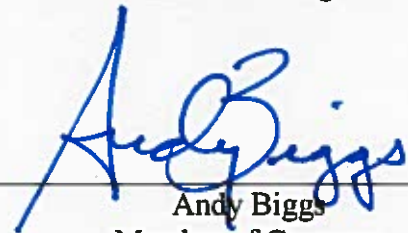
Darin LaHood
Member of Congress



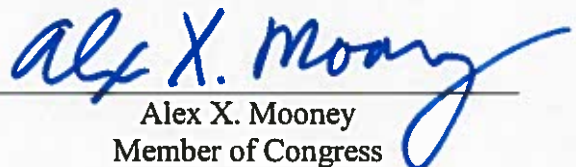
Van Taylor
Member of Congress



John Joyce, MD.
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress




John Rose
Member of Congress



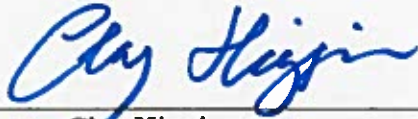
Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress



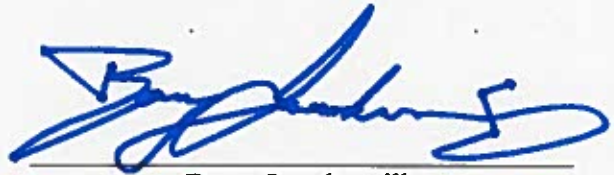
Martha Roby
Member of Congress



Ron Wright
Member of Congress



Clay Higgins
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Mike Johnson
Member of Congress



Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress



Jody B. Hice
Member of Congress



Glenn "GT" Thompson
Member of Congress



Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



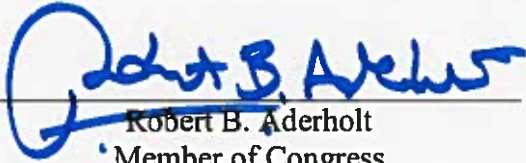
William R. Timmons, IV
Member of Congress



Scott Perry
Member of Congress



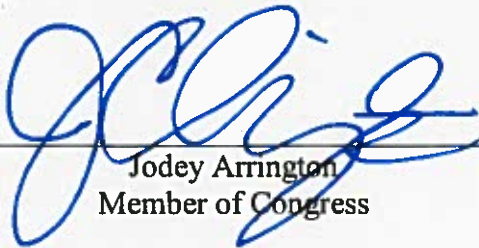
Steve Watkins
Member of Congress



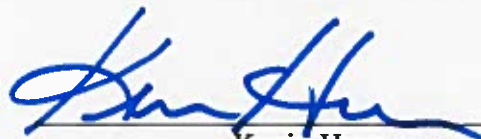
Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



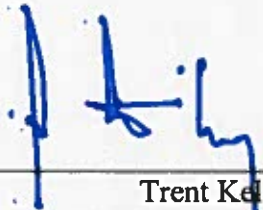
Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



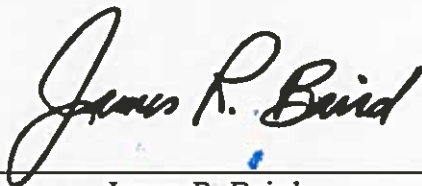
Trent Kelly
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Mark Green
Member of Congress



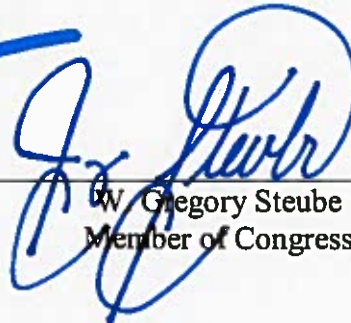
James R. Baird
Member of Congress



Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress



David Kustoff
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube
Member of Congress



Roger Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
Member of Congress



John Ratcliffe
Member of Congress



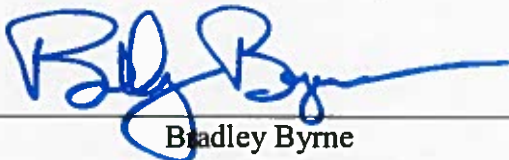
Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



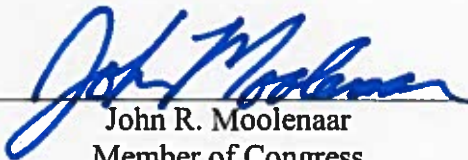
Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



John R. Moolenaar
Member of Congress



Randy K. Weber
Member of Congress



David P. Roe, M.D.
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress