



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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Your Eminence/Excellency:

The Hyde Amendment has protected Americans from funding abortion for 45 years. Now, the President, as well as powerful members of Congress, want to take away this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century.

The Committee on Pro-Life Activities **hopes that you will use the attached packet to:**

- **Learn** about the threats to the Hyde Amendment
- **Speak out** in defense of babies and mothers threatened by taxpayer-funded abortion
- **Inspire Catholics in your diocese to pray and advocate** to stop taxpayer-funded abortion, especially by signing the petition at www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com

If you have any questions about the Hyde Amendment and how you can use your voice and position to help protect it, please do not hesitate to contact Kat Talalas, Assistant Director for Pro-Life Communications for the Committee of Pro-Life Activities, at ktalalas@usccb.org.

May our combined efforts help us prepare for the day when abortion is not only illegal, but unthinkable.

Fraternally yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, Kansas
Chairman
U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
Committee on Pro-Life Activities

Enclosure

Key Points: Stop Taxpayer-Funded Abortion

Taxpayer-funded abortion is not a one-party issue.

- Today, the majority of Americans, including members of both parties, agree that taxpayer dollars should not go to abortion.¹
- The Hyde Amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, whether the Congress and the White House were led by Republicans or Democrats.

It is wrong to force Americans to pay for abortions against their beliefs.

- Most Americans oppose use of their taxpayer dollars for abortion, and for many this is a matter of moral or religious conviction.
- The federal government respects conscience by staying out of the abortion business.
- Americans should not be made to subsidize the taking of innocent life.

The Hyde Amendment saves lives.

- When billions of taxpayer dollars go to subsidize abortion, more babies will lose their lives.²
- The Hyde Amendment has saved 2.4 million babies from abortion since its enactment.³

Taxpayer-funded abortion hurts women who are vulnerable.

- To offer women a government-funded abortion, but not the resources she needs to provide for her baby, is not “choice” but coercion.
- All women deserve the resources to enable them to fully care for and nurture their baby, to welcome them in a loving, stable environment. Government money would be better spent supporting women in unexpected or challenging pregnancies and struggling new mothers than paying to end the lives of their children.
- Low-income women generally are more likely than wealthier women to oppose abortion.⁴
- The Hyde Amendment has been broadly supported by the majority of low-income women, including women of color.⁵
- By reducing abortion, the Hyde Amendment also saves women’s lives. And after it went into effect, abortion complications for women affected by the policy went down.⁶

¹ W. Saletan, “Abortion Funding Isn’t As Popular As Democrats Think,” Slate, June 12, 2019; <https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2019/06/joe-biden-hyde-amendment-democratic-support.html>

² M.J. New, “Addendum to Hyde @ 40: Analyzing the Impact of the Hyde Amendment,” Charlotte Lozier Institute, July 21, 2020. <https://lozierinstitute.org/addendum-to-hyde-40-analyzing-the-impact-of-the-hyde-amendment/>. This site also links to Dr. New’s more complete 2016 study, which cites over 20 peer-reviewed studies showing that such laws help prevent abortions. The estimate of lives saved takes into account the fact that some states use their state tax dollars to replace federal abortion funding.

³ <https://lozierinstitute.org/addendum-to-hyde-40-analyzing-the-impact-of-the-hyde-amendment/?fbclid=IwAR3Gf05YAgZ8IBEXTTwegM5vP3SC2ZkU4a-dhuMVXbX3pU189uUzm2YTfgk>

⁴ https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/2007/MR1114.pdf

⁵ Do you support or oppose the Hyde amendment? YouGov, 2016 Poll.

https://d25d2506sfb94s.cloudfront.net/cumulus_uploads/document/8bylijohx4/tabs_OP_Hyde_Amendment_20160808.pdf.

⁶ R.M. Selik, W. Cates, and C.W. Tyler, “Effects of restricted public funding for legal abortions: a second look,” 71(1) *Am. J. Public Health* (Jan. 1981): 77–81, at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1619707/>. Abortion supporters publicly cited one Texas woman in particular as “a martyr to the Hyde Amendment” until it was found that the policy was not responsible for her death. R. Grauel and F. Murray, “Facts Don’t Back Link of Abortion Death in Texas to Fund Cutoff,” *Ob. Gyn. News*, December 1, 1977, at 1, 26.

How bishops can speak out against taxpayer-funded abortion:

- Write an op-ed for the local or diocesan paper (and plug www.notaxpayerabortion.com so Catholics can sign the petition and contact Congress)
- Give an interview to the diocesan paper
- Talk about taxpayer-funded abortion in a homily
- Record a video for YouTube, Facebook, Instagram or other social media sites
- Write a letter to your Senators and Congressional representatives imploring them to maintain Hyde
- Request a meeting with your Senators and Congressional representatives

If you do any of the above, or if you need any assistance, please contact Kat Talalas, Assistant Director for Pro-Life Communications, at ktalalas@usccb.org so that the Pro-Life Committee can thank you and amplify your efforts.