Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 3, 2011

Dear Colleague:

We are writing today to urge you to support H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and oppose any weakening amendments.

This bipartisan bill will ensure taxpayer funds are not used to pay for elective abortions. It also will ensure that the government does not force others to take part in abortions.

This commonsense bill will codify critical pro-life riders, including:

- **Labor, Health and Human Services Appropriations:** No funds appropriated through the Labor-HHS appropriations bill can be used for elective abortion or abortion coverage due to the Hyde amendment, which must be reapproved every fiscal year. This policy does not cover funds such as the money appropriated through the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (PPACA) which were appropriated outside of the Labor-HHS appropriations bill
- **District of Columbia:** The "DC Hyde amendment" sometimes called the "Dornan amendment" must be annually included in the Financial Services Appropriations Act to prohibit congressionally appropriated funds from being used for elective abortions within the District of Columbia.
- **Foreign Aid:** International aid programs cannot pay for abortion as a method of family planning due to policies known as the Helms amendment.
- **Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP):** An annual rider included in the Financial Services Appropriations Act ensures that FEHBP plans do not include elective abortion. This rider known as the Smith amendment must be reapproved every fiscal year.
- **Conscience Protection**: No state, local or federal government agency may discriminate against health care entities including doctors, nurses, hospitals and other health care providers due to the Hyde-Weldon conscience clause included in the Labor-HHS appropriations bill. However, this policy must be annually reapproved. H.R. 3 makes the policy permanent and adds legal recourse for victims of discrimination.

This bill will save lives. When the government isn't subsidizing elective abortions, fewer abortions are performed. Even abortion advocates recognize this reality. In the Fall of 2010, the Guttmacher Institute issued a report showing that, when public funding is not available, 25 percent fewer Medicaid-eligible women have abortions.

H.R. 3 is a necessary bill as it applies the Hyde Amendment to programs it does not currently cover-- such as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)-- and would prevent annual funding fights in the future, as well as the possibility of these critical bans being eliminated.

Furthermore, there is strong public consensus behind this legislation. An April 2011 CNN Opinion Research poll found that 61% of Americans oppose using public funds for abortions when the woman cannot afford it.

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We strongly believe women deserve better than abortion, and it is time to get taxpayers out of the abortion industry. Please support the bipartisan No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act and oppose all hostile amendments.

Sincerely,

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Sandy Adams
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress

Renee Ellmers
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Cynthia Lummis
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Cathy McMorris Rodgers
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Candice Miller
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Jaime Herrera Beutler
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