



Elections & Laws for Life

December 9, 2019

Dear Representative,

As the Energy and Commerce Committee considers various proposals for federal health programs and spending, we urge members to oppose any legislation that fails to apply the principles of the Hyde Amendment to federal taxpayer-funded or taxpayer-subsidized programs. We are particularly concerned about the *Medicare for All* proposal and efforts to stabilize Obamacare.

For decades, the Hyde Amendment and other funding limitation amendments have prevented federal taxpayer funding for abortion or for health insurance plans that included abortion in federal programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program. Only limited exceptions apply under the Hyde Amendment.

H.R. 1384, Rep. Pramila Jayapal's "*Medicare for All Act of 2019*," would overturn decades of federal precedent and intent by funding elective abortion. The list of covered benefits contains "comprehensive reproductive... care," a euphemism that includes abortion-on-demand.

According to the Charlotte Lozier Institute, the Hyde Amendment has saved over 2.25 million lives through Medicaid alone since its enactment in 1976. Approximately one in every 150 of our fellow Americans is alive today because of this law. However, *Medicare for All* would eliminate Hyde and other lifesaving protections by creating a Universal Medicare Trust Fund to fund healthcare, and explicitly removing existing safeguards against federal abortion funding.

In a radical departure from the Hyde principle, the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) uses accounting gimmicks to allow federal taxpayer funding for health insurance plans that include elective abortion. Any funding to stabilize Obamacare such as funding for cost-sharing reductions or reinsurance will further support this ongoing deviation from the principle of the Hyde Amendment.

Poll after poll has found that a majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. A 2019 Marist poll found that 54% of Americans oppose using tax dollars to pay for abortions, with just 39% in support.

Health care legislation that does not explicitly exclude coverage for elective abortion are historically interpreted to approve such coverage, directly or indirectly.

We are strongly opposed to any legislation that covers elective abortion in healthcare and urge you to oppose such bills unless amended so that such funds cannot be used for plans that include abortion.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List