



July 2, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

For over four decades, Democrats and Republicans in Congress have worked together to pass legislation blocking federal funding for abortions. Recently, however, the current Administration and key members of Congress have voiced support for repealing many of these long-standing provisions – repeals which would force a large subset of Americans to pay for activities they regard as gravely immoral.

On May 28, 2021, the White House released its federal budget proposal which excluded the Hyde Amendment for the first time since its passing in 1976. The Hyde Amendment prohibits the use of federal funds (Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program) for abortion except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

This week, the House Committee on Appropriations has been working on two bills which exclude longstanding bipartisan amendments – namely the Dornan, Smith and Helms Amendments – that prevent taxpayer funds from being used to pay for abortions in the District of Columbia, in foreign countries, and for federal employee health plans that cover abortions.

Congress will be voting on these proposals during the second half of July.

To counter these actions and defend the sanctity of life, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is asking Catholics to sign the petition at <http://NoTaxpayerAbortion.com> by July 16, 2021.

I ask you to respond to this nationwide effort by signing the petition and by praying for our Catholic brothers and sisters who serve in the public square. Through the intercession of Mary, the New Eve, may we all work together to reject a culture of death and instead embrace life in the light of Christ.

In Christ,

Most Reverend Stephen D. Parkes  
Bishop of Savannah

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