



HYDE AMENDMENT INFORMATION AND TALKING POINTS

Background Information:

The Hyde Amendment and similar pro-life policies **were excluded from President Biden's proposed 2022 Budget**—these laws have long protected American taxpayers from funding elective abortion coverage and participating in or providing for abortion procedures that violate their conscience.



Without the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life policies ...

- billions of dollars in American taxpayer money could be used to fund abortions both domestically and overseas
- healthcare providers would be stripped of conscience protections allowing them to refer or refuse abortion procedures
- employers and insurers could be forced to pay for abortions for their employees and insurees

Over the past 45 years, the Hyde Amendment has saved 2.4 million lives and has received majority bipartisan support from Congress. Advocacy is essential to ensure that the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life policies remain in effect.

Currently:

President Biden's budget **PASSED THE HOUSE WITHOUT THESE PROTECTIONS**. The legislation must also pass an eventual vote in the Senate, meaning **there are still opportunities** for Catholic advocacy on this critical issue.

Outreach to legislators from Catholics in the Diocese of Green Bay is imperative!

Our diocese must confidently and charitably voice our support for the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life policies excluded in the Biden administration's budget and oppose any legislation that expands taxpayer funding of abortion.

YOUR PARISHIONERS PLAY A CRUCIAL ROLE IN PROTECTING THE HYDE AMENDMENT AND OTHER PRO-LIFE POLICIES.

EDUCATION - PRAYER - ADVOCACY

Important Outcomes:

THE GOAL OF DISCUSSING THE HYDE AMENDMENT AND OTHER PRO-LIFE POLICIES AT YOUR PARISH IS TO CONVICT YOUR PARISHIONERS TO ACT THROUGH PRAYER AND ADVOCACY. LEGISLATORS LISTEN TO THEIR CONSTITUENTS, AND **WHEN EVEN A SMALL NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS IN THEIR DISTRICT CONTACT THEM REGARDING AN ISSUE, THEY MAKE NOTE OF IT.**

Parishioners Should:

- UNDERSTAND THAT THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH JESUS CALLS THEM TO LOVE THEIR NEIGHBOR AND WILL THEIR GOOD, ESPECIALLY FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE.
- REALIZE THE LINK BETWEEN THEIR CATHOLIC FAITH AND THE DUTY TO ADVOCATE FOR THE LIFE AND DIGNITY OF THE UNBORN AS DISCIPLES FOR LIFE.
- KNOW THAT THE REPEAL OF THE HYDE AMENDMENT AND OTHER PRO-LIFE POLICIES IMPACTS THEM DIRECTLY, AS THEIR TAXPAYER DOLLARS WILL BE USED TO DIRECTLY FUND ELECTIVE ABORTIONS.
- FEEL EMPOWERED AND CONVICTED IN TAKING THE NEXT STEPS IN ADVOCACY FOR THE HYDE AMENDMENT BY SIGNING THE PETITION AT **NOTAXPAYERABORTION.COM** AND EMAILING OR CALLING THEIR LEGISLATORS.
- CONDUCT THEIR OUTREACH IN A CHARITABLE AND CONFIDENT MANNER, TRUSTING THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL GUIDE THEIR EFFORTS AND KNOWING THAT GOD IS WITH THEM IN THEIR ADVOCACY.

Talking Points for Homilies and Other Communications

The following are different points in support of the Hyde Amendment and other "Hyde-like" policies. You may incorporate these points into your homily, parish communications such as your bulletin or Constant Contact mailing, or in regular conversation with your parishioners. Look to personalize these messages to your parish and community. (i.e. While highlighting the ability to volunteer at a pregnancy resource center, etc.)

Life and Dignity of the Human Person

- Every child has the right to be born, to experience a beautiful relationship with our Lord, and to find fulfillment in this life and in Heaven. We are created in God's image, and the life and dignity of all people, especially the unborn, the most vulnerable among us, should be protected from conception until natural death.
- The Hyde Amendment recognizes that abortion is not a right, but life is, and it's our duty to ensure that our legislators know that we support the Hyde Amendment.
- Prior to the enactment of the Hyde Amendment in 1976, 300,000 abortions were performed annually using taxpayer dollars. Since the Hyde Amendment was enacted, almost 2.5 million unborn lives have been saved.
- If the Hyde Amendment is repealed, abortion will be cheaper, more accessible, and would be funded by your taxpayer dollars.

Respecting the Consciences of Individuals

- Taxpayer-funded abortions are not popular, and they are not healthcare. In fact, a majority of Americans from both sides of the aisle oppose the use of taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.
- The Hyde Amendment is a response to the good judgment of the everyday American, along with another important amendment facing repeal in this legislation: the Weldon Amendment.
- The Weldon Amendment allows healthcare providers to refer or refuse to perform abortions because of their religious or moral beliefs.
- As St. John Henry Newman said, *"Conscience has rights because it has duties."* As we follow Jesus' instructions to love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves, we realize that no policy should interfere with the development of our relationship with God and our neighbor.

Personal Relationship with Jesus

- St. Pope John Paul II said in his encyclical *"The Gospel of Life"* that *"with regard to life, man is not the absolute master and final judge, but rather—and this is where his incomparable greatness lies— he is the minister of God's plan (52)."* Our relationship with Jesus forms every aspect of our lives and should be the primary reason for any decisions that we make.
- A fruitful and joyful relationship with God guides how we live our lives, and we must be free to respond to the Lord's movements of love for us in ways that impact our friends, families, and communities. This means speaking out against legislation and policies that harm our neighbors and the good of our families.
- The Hyde Amendment and other pro-life policies facing repeal in this legislation must be protected so that all people can grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

Loving our Neighbors as Ourselves and Living as Disciples for Life

- A basic moral test of a society is how we treat the most vulnerable among us in times of need. This is why the church supports mothers and families during difficult or unplanned pregnancies. We might volunteer at pregnancy resources centers, cook meals for the family, and keep them in our prayers.
- If the Hyde Amendment and other pro-life policies are repealed, we will be forced to watch as our taxes, the fruits of our labor, fund the deaths of countless unborn children. Families in our community will have easier access to abortion procedures, and these procedures will likely be cheaper. Sadly, this will undoubtedly lead to families—who might have sought community help in difficult pregnancy situations—instead choosing to have an abortion.
- We can act for the good of the families in our community by contacting our legislators in support of the Hyde Amendment.

Action Steps for Parishioners

1. Write your senators in support of the Hyde Amendment if you have not done so already.
(A sample letter to senators can be found [here](#).)
2. Continue promoting the USCCB's petition in support of the Hyde Amendment at NoTaxpayerAbortion.com.