

Senator Ron Johnson
5315 Wall Street, Suite 110
Madison, WI 53718

Dear Senator/Representative:

As Congress begins to consider annual appropriations, I urge you to bear in mind the inalienable rights and dignity of every human being, including the unborn child.

Pope Francis tells us, "... appeal to all politicians, regardless of their faith convictions, to treat the defense of the lives of those who are about to be born and enter into society as the cornerstone of the common good." Accordingly, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject taxpayer funding of abortion, and to oppose appropriations bills that do not include the long-standing, bipartisan Hyde Amendment and related pro-life provisions.

These consensus provisions have been approved year after year by Congresses and Presidents of both parties. For almost half a century, the Hyde Amendment has protected taxpayers from having abortion imposed upon them by having to pay for an act that destroys defenseless human beings, has no clear justification in terms of women's health, and may even attack women's health and their very lives. As the U.S. Supreme Court said in the case in which it upheld the Hyde Amendment, "Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life."¹ Equally important, the Hyde Amendment is credited with saving 2.4 million lives.

Abortion is not healthcare, it is the antithesis of healthcare, and should not be financed and expanded with taxpayer dollars. Instead, I urge you to put the government's support and funding behind policies and programs that help pregnant women in difficult situations, so they can give life to their children and support them after birth. Offering abortion, rather than true assistance in meeting the needs of struggling women, is coercion. We must not become a society that will pay for the death of a mother's unborn child when she needs help to support her baby. Instead of replacing one injustice with another, we must work to address her needs and support both mother and baby.

I implore you to oppose any appropriations bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion, and instead support funding that serves the common good of all, including mothers and their unborn children. I respectfully request a meeting as soon as possible to discuss this critical matter further.

Finally, please know that you and your staff are in my prayers as you continue your important work on behalf of our country.

Sincerely,

¹ *Harris v. McRae*, 448 U.S. 297, 314 (1980)