



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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January 23, 2017

Dear Member of Congress:

Soon, tens of thousands of Americans from every corner of our nation will gather in Washington, D.C. to celebrate God's miraculous gift of human life and to urge our government to respect and protect the most fundamental human right—the right to life—of every human life from its very beginning.

The message of this largely youthful gathering is simple, yet profound: abortion is a false and violent response that turns a woman in crisis and her unborn child against each other. Women and their unborn children deserve better—they deserve solutions that empower both to have a positive future.

In that same spirit, I urge you to support the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7) introduced by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL). H.R. 7 is modest legislation that takes an important step toward a society that promotes life and not death for unborn children and their mothers.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act will write into permanent law a policy on which there has been strong popular and congressional agreement for more than 40 years: The federal government should not use its funding power to support and promote elective abortion, and should not force taxpayers to subsidize this violence. In addition to having broad public support, recent analysis found that as many as two million lives have been saved as a result of restrictions on federal abortion funding.

The American people oppose taxpayer-funding of abortion and want that opposition reflected in our law once and for all. Public opinion polls consistently reveal that strong majorities of women, minorities, and low-income Americans oppose taxpayer-funded abortions. This includes a majority even of those who call themselves “pro-choice”. Even public officials who take a “pro-choice” stand, and courts that have insisted on a constitutional “right” to abortion, have agreed that the government has every right (in the Supreme Court's words) to “encourage childbirth over abortion.”

This consensus is reflected in the Hyde Amendment, and many other provisions governing a wide range of domestic and foreign programs. Yet each of these provisions governs only a particular funding stream. This patchwork of provisions, on occasion, has resulted in a gap or loophole, as was the case with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Even collectively these various provisions did not prevent the ACA from subsidizing health plans that cover elective abortions, contrary to the policy of every other federal program.

H.R. 7 would end this glaring contradiction in federal law, and establish a policy for future health programs so they can be debated on their merits—instead of being marred by a divisive debate on abortion.

Please vote for H.R. 7 when it comes before the full House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim. Card. Dolan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Timothy Cardinal Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops