

November 21, 2019

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Thank you for your commitment and all the actions of your Administration to ensure that human rights for the unborn are valued and protected. Most recently, we are grateful for your Administration's work to enhance women's health, education, and rights internationally while recognizing and valuing the lives and rights of their unborn children.

We write to express great concern that these laudable and significant actions, including your administration's Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy (PLGHA), will be undermined by the Shaheen amendment to the Senate's State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) appropriations bill. This amendment must be removed before final passage of the SFOPS bill.

The Shaheen amendment has several problematic provisions. First, and most troubling, it increases a highly controversial earmark for international family planning by \$57.55 million above current law, from \$575 million to \$632.55 million. This funding serves to enrich global abortion providers: more money for this earmark exploits an aspect of the PLGHA that allows this account to serve as a taxpayer-funded supplemental for U.S.-based NGOs that actively promote abortion overseas. In FY 2018, the U.S. provided nearly \$280 million in foreign aid to groups involved in abortion activities overseas.

Second, the amendment undermines USAID's New Partnership Initiative by adding new reporting requirements that are intended to effectively "name and shame" faith or community-based partners, particularly pro-life and pro-family partners. The resulting blacklist is designed to drive qualified faith-based providers away from providing foreign assistance. In addition, the amendment condones a flawed regulation from the previous administration that targets pro-life and pro-family organizations.

Finally, the amendment directs the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a one-sided evaluation targeting the pro-life policies of your Administration.

In addition to undermining important pro-life actions and policies of your Administration, we believe that the Shaheen amendment, creating new policy, expressly violates the Bipartisan Budget Agreement for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021, which explicitly states, "there will be no poison pills, additional new riders, ... or other changes in policy or conventions that allow for higher spending levels, or any nonappropriations measures unless agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President."

We also agree with the 26 senators who signed an August 1 letter to you making clear that any "earmark [of] increased funding for international family planning/reproductive health programs" constitutes an "anti-life poison pill rider" for purposes of the Budget Agreement.

Mr. President, for these reasons, we strongly urge you to communicate to Congress that the Shaheen amendment is a poison pill that violates the Budget Agreement, and that you will oppose it as part of any final appropriations package.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann
Archbishop of Kansas City, KS
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life Committee

Tom McClusky
President
March for Life Action

Travis Weber
Vice President for Policy and Government
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Penny Young Nance
CEO and President
Concerned Women for America
Legislative Action Committee

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics &
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Catherine Glenn Foster
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Americans United for Life

Kristan Hawkins
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Students for Life

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Lila Rose
Founder and President
Live Action

Steve White, MD
Chair Healthcare Policy Committee
Catholic Medical Association

Austin Ruse
President
Center for Family & Human Rights

Michelle Cretella, MD
Executive Director
American College of Pediatricians

Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director
Priests for Life

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Mike Chupp, MD, FACS, FCS (ECSA)
CEO
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