



Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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Dear Member of Congress:

Last week, many thousands of Americans once again gathered in Washington, D.C., despite the snow and the bitter cold, to celebrate God's wonderful gift of human life and to ask our government to respect and protect life from its very beginning. Hopeful young people and older veterans of our national debate on abortion declared together that we must not turn the woman in crisis and her unborn child against one another – that we should reject the false and deadly response of abortion, instead promoting adoption and other solutions that empower both mother and child to have a positive future.

In that same spirit, I urge you this week to support legislation to take us one small step toward a society that promotes life and not death for unborn children and their mothers. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 7) is sponsored by Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) and 163 other members. It deserves your support.

H.R. 7 is modest legislation. It will write into permanent law a policy on which there has been strong popular and congressional agreement for over 37 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. 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 in authorizing and appropriations bills. Yet each of these provisions governs only a particular funding stream; even collectively they have not prevented the Affordable Care Act of 2010 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. The American people, including American women, oppose public funding of abortion and want that opposition reflected in our law once and for all.

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

Sincerely,

Seán Cardinal O'Malley
Archbishop of Boston
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops