



United States
Conference of
Catholic Bishops

Committee on
Pro-Life Activities

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June 26, 2025

Hon. Susan Collins, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Tom Cole, Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Patty Murray, Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Congress undertakes the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2026, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) is once again respectfully asking you to advance respect for the dignity of all human life. You will be hearing from several USCCB committees asking your support for the poor, migrants and refugees, foreign assistance, environmental protection, health care, housing, nutrition, and more to help people meet basic needs. These priorities, which serve the dignity and flourishing of the human person, have their foundation in the protection of innocent, preborn lives. I thus write on behalf of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

We are profoundly grateful to the House of Representatives for working together to defund the abortion industry in the reconciliation bill. Though the USCCB has serious concerns about other parts of that legislation, the provision addressing taxpayer funding for abortion providers is a tremendous stride forward.¹ In the same vein then, we also encourage you in the appropriations process not only to maintain the fundamental, long-standing Hyde Amendment and related life-saving policies, but to stop the subsidization of major abortion providers. Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in the U.S. at over 400,000 preborn children killed per year, and its enrichment from taxpayer dollars now stands at \$792 million annually.² Comparing Planned Parenthood's own annual reports over the last twenty years, these government revenues have generally increased alongside both the number of abortions Planned Parenthood performs and its share of the abortion industry (about 40%), while numerous other services and numbers of patients served have decreased. Congress should defund this business and, instead, ensure greater support for authentic, life-affirming health care providers who truly serve mothers and their children in need.

We also strongly encourage Congress in the appropriations process to complement and enhance the Administration's ongoing efforts to rectify the overreaches of the prior Administration that aggressively promoted elective abortion. This especially involves the Departments of Health and Human Services (including the Food and Drug Administration), Defense, and Veterans Affairs, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. The abortion-promoting actions of the previous Administration, such as turning veterans' hospitals and neighborhood convenience stores into abortion providers, were unconscionable and degraded the dignity of patients and communities.

We continue to call for funding policies that put children and families first. Public priorities, aligned in this way, must respond in authentic, life-affirming ways to mothers in need and their babies. This includes improvements and investments in maternal and child health and child care, a paid parental leave policy, and fully funding the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and



Children (WIC). In addition to such assistance, pro-family policies ought to support husbands and wives and the integrity of the family itself, as institutions that in turn can, on average, strengthen members' socioeconomic situations. Society must make it easier to welcome and raise a new child, and promote life and hope for both preborn children and their mothers and fathers.

Lastly, as pastors, we see the real pain that couples experiencing infertility can have, and we recognize that their profound desire to have children is both natural and good. Should provisions related to infertility be considered in appropriations, we would therefore support resources, such as training or research, for restorative reproductive medicine, to help identify and treat its underlying causes.³ We would oppose, however, new provisions that would fund or facilitate in vitro fertilization (IVF). IVF represents an underregulated industry that creates hundreds of thousands or even millions of preborn children who will be lost in attempts to implant them within a mother, interminably frozen, or discarded and killed (often in a selective, eugenic manner).⁴ There is perhaps no more literal example of what the late Pope Francis had often decried as a “throwaway culture.” Further, by turning the conception of children into a lucrative manufacturing process, IVF violates their rights and treats them like property.⁵ Even so, we affirm that no one has any less worth because of being conceived through IVF. Every person has infinite, inherent dignity, which we uphold through every stage and circumstance of life.

It behooves all of us to assist all mothers – especially the poor, those who live on the peripheries, and those experiencing an unexpected or difficult pregnancy. This cannot be done in truth or love, however, if supposed solutions end the lives of their children. The same is true for couples experiencing infertility. Please work together towards a better way that protects dignity, offers solutions, provides support, and ultimately empowers parents and children in all stages and circumstances of life to have the positive futures that they deserve.

Sincerely,

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Bishop of Toledo
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities

¹ With respect to the USCCB's budget reconciliation requests, see letters at https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter_Defund_Planned_Parenthood_2025.pdf; https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter%20to%20119th%20Congress%20Regarding%20Medicaid,%20February%2028,%202025_0.pdf; and <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Letter%20to%20Congress%20on%20Budget%20Reconciliation-05-20-25.pdf>.

² Planned Parenthood, A Force for Hope: Annual Report 2023-2024, at https://www.plannedparenthood.org/uploads/filer_public/ec/6d/ec6da0d6-98e5-4278-8d11-99a5cba8e615/2024-ppfa-annualreport-c3-digital.pdf.

³ See H. Rowan (Ed.), “Treating Infertility: The New Frontier of Reproductive Medicine,” Ethics & Public Policy Center and The Heritage Foundation, Mar. 2025, at <https://eppc.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/6-FINAL-Treating-Infertility-The-New-Frontier-of-Reproductive-Medicine.pdf>; M. Duane, MD, and T. Brown, MD, “Restorative Reproductive Medicine for Infertility: A Safe, Effective, Affordable Alternative,” FACTS About Fertility, Feb. 27, 2025, at <https://www.factsaboutfertility.org/restorative-reproductive-medicine-for-infertility-a-safe-effective-affordable-alternative/>; T. Arnold, “NaPro Technology’ Offers a Pro-Life Alternative to IVF for Infertility Treatment,” National Catholic Register, Mar. 26, 2024, at <https://www.ncregister.com/cna/napro-technology-offers-a-pro-life-alternative-to-ivf-for-infertility-treatment>; “What If We Addressed The Root Of Infertility Rather Than Pushing The Questionable IVF Quick Fix?,” *The*



Federalist, Mar. 25, 2024, at <https://thefederalist.com/2024/03/25/what-if-we-can-heal-infertile-women-rather-than-turning-to-expensive-unethical-ivf-treatments-first/>; see also C. Turczynski et al., “Alternatives to In Vitro Fertilization (IVF) for Overcoming Infertility and Delivering a Health Baby,” *On Science*, iss. 18, Charlotte Lozier Inst., June 10, 2025, at <https://lozierinstitute.org/alternatives-to-in-vitro-fertilization-ivf-for-overcoming-infertility-and-delivering-a-healthy-baby/>; <https://iirm.org>; <https://naprotechnology.com/>; “‘Isn’t NaPro Technology Just Charting?’ and other questions: A Natural Womanhood NaPro FAQ,” Natural Womanhood, June 11, 2020, at <https://naturalwomanhood.org/naprotechnology-answers-to-your-frequently-asked-napro-questions-2020/>; H. Klaus, MD, “Reproductive Technology: Evaluation and Treatment of Infertility: Guidelines for Catholic Couples,” U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2025 ed., at <https://www.usccb.org/resources/Reproductive%20Technology%20Guidelines%20for%20Catholic%20Couples%20updated.pdf>.

⁴ See <https://www.usccb.org/resources/vitro-fertilization-human-cost-2024>; see also Aria Bendix et al., “After IVF nightmares, patients have few protections,” NBC News, Mar. 19, 2025, at <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/womens-health/ivf-errors-legal-protections-nightmare-mistakes-lawsuits-rcna194215>; Emi Nietfeld, “America’s IVF Failure,” *The Atlantic*, May 2, 2024; Lenny Bernstein and Yeganeh Torbati, “Inside the opaque world of IVF, where errors are rarely made public,” *The Washington Post*, Apr. 28, 2024; Emma Waters, “Alabama Embryo Ruling Brings Much-Needed Regulation to Fertility Industry,” *Newsweek*, Feb. 23, 2024.

⁵ See Catechism of the Catholic Church, nos. 2376-78. For more on the dignity of, and respect due, human embryos in the context of and in contrast to IVF, see also Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, *Dignitas infinita*, Rome, Apr. 8, 2024, fn. 89; Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Instruction *Donum vitae*, Rome, Feb. 22, 1987.