

October 17, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
The Capitol, H-329
Washington D.C., 20515

Dear Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy,

We are deeply grateful for the incredible leadership you continue to show, steadfastly standing against efforts to weaken pro-life protections, and promoting consistent pro-life policies at home and abroad. However, we wanted to bring to your attention our opposition to the Shaheen amendment to the Senate State and Foreign Operations bill. This amendment was included in the bill reported out of the Appropriations Committee and reflects a change in the status quo with regard to funding associated with abortion.

The Trump administration has made extraordinary progress in implementing pro-life policies internationally, specifically through Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA), the modernized Mexico City Policy. We cannot emphasize enough the significance of ongoing actions taken to implement this policy consistently, removing even indirect funding for abortion overseas.

However, domestic organizations that work overseas are not subject to PLGHA, and some receiving International Family Planning funding under State and Foreign Operations (SFOPs) actively and unapologetically promote abortion. We are deeply concerned by the increase of funds for international family planning in the Senate SFOPs bill, which would provide even more money to these organizations. The following are examples of domestic organizations and the funds received in FY 2018 through International Family Planning:

- **>\$29 million to Pathfinder International**, which “Collaborate[s] with governments in building the capacity of health systems to ensure quality comprehensive abortion services”
- **>\$6.7 million to Population Council**, which touts its work in rural India, demonstrating “the effectiveness of a comprehensive abortion care model”
- **>\$5 million to Engender Health**, which works in Ethiopia “expanding access to comprehensive abortion care”
- **>\$2.2 million to Womancare Global International**, manufacturer and distributor of a surgical abortion device known as Manual Vacuum Aspirator
- **>\$982,000 to PATH**, which works to increase “access to safe abortion in Nepal”

Equally of concern, the Shaheen amendment gives one-sided support to Obama-era discriminatory language and requires one-sided reports regarding USAID family planning programming and pro-life policies. Senator Shaheen’s amendment is clearly designed to undermine the life-saving policies of the Trump administration. While this is not her typical frontal attack on PLGHA, it is no less an attack on the policy and life-affirming recipients of taxpayer dollars.

Senator Shaheen describes the investigations required in her report as intended to “ensure biases by the administration regarding reproductive health do not interfere or alter the delivery of services on the ground.” Of course, what she refers to as bias is, in fact, a policy designed to protect the lives of unborn children who suffer the ultimate bias when they are disregarded as undeserving of legal protection.

The Bipartisan Budget Agreement for Fiscal Years 2020 and 2021 include specifications for what may or may not be included in appropriations bills. Point number 5 states:

Congressional leaders and the administration agree that, relative to the FY 2019 regular appropriations Acts, there will be no poison pills, additional new riders, additional CHIMPS, or other changes in policy or conventions that allow for higher spending levels, or any non-appropriations measures unless agreed to on a bipartisan basis by the four leaders with the approval of the President.

President Trump's January 18, 2019 letter to Speaker Pelosi specifically condemns House Democratic attacks against Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance, and promises that the President will "veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life Federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any stage."

On June 18 of this year, the U.S. House of Representatives voted on an amendment to the House SFOPs appropriations bill to strike the increase of international family planning funds. Every voting Republican member supported the amendment, along with two Democratic members, proving that this issue is far from settled.

Finally, on August 1, 2019, twenty-six Senators wrote to the President, thanking him for his prioritization of pro-life policies and his veto threat letter. Regarding the bipartisan budget agreement, they laid out anti-life policies that must be rejected. Included in the list is "earmarked increased funding for international family planning/reproductive health programs."

The Shaheen amendment is a highly controversial, partisan attack on pro-life foreign policy, and must be eliminated in any SFOPs bill going forward. Consistent with the bipartisan budget agreement, we ask that you reject the Shaheen amendment.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life Committee

Tom McClusky
President
March for Life Action

Donna J. Harrison, M.D.
Executive Director
American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians
and Gynecologists

Catherine Glenn Foster
President & CEO
Americans United for Life

Lila Rose
Founder and President
Live Action

Travis Weber
Vice President for Policy and Government
Affairs
Family Research Council

Penny Young Nance
CEO & President
Concerned Women for America LAC

Kristan Hawkins
President
Students for Life

Russell Moore
President
Southern Baptist Ethics & Religious Liberty
Commission

CC: President Donald Trump

Greg Schleppenbach
Associate Director
USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

Jessica Anderson
Vice President
Heritage Action for America

Ryan Bomberger
Chief Creative Officer
The Radiance Foundation

Roland C Warren
President & CEO
Care Net

Allan E. Parker Jr
President
The Justice Foundation

Cynthia Collins
Global Advisor
Operation Outcry

Cheryl Sullenger
Senior Vice President
Operation Rescue

Jordan Sekulow
Executive Director
American Center for Law and Justice

Jo Ann Gerling
Director
Coalition on Abortion Breast Cancer

Rabbi Pesach Lerner
President
Coalition for Jewish Values

Steven Ertelt
Editor
LifeNews.com

Terry Schilling
Executive Director
American Principles Project

Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director
Priests for Life

Austin Ruse
President
C-Fam

Eunie Smith
President
Eagle Forum

Thomas A. Glessner, J.D.
President
National Institute of Family and Life Advocates

Alexandra Snyder, Esq.
Executive Director
Life Legal Defense Foundation

Janet Morana
Co-founder
Silent No More Awareness Campaign

Joe Langfeld
Executive Director
Human Life Alliance

Eric J. Scheidler
Executive Director
Pro-Life Action League

James Nolan
President
Crossroads Pro-Life

Fr. Shenan J. Bouquet
President
Human Life International

Brian Gibson
Executive Director
Pro-Life Action Ministries

Bev Cielnicky
President
Crusade for Life, Inc.

Brad Mattes
President
Life Issues Institute

Larry Cirignano
DC Representative
Children First Foundation

Cathi Herrod
President
Center for Arizona Policy

Melissa Clement
President
Nevada Right to Life

Tami Fitzgerald
Executive Director
NC Values Coalition

Julaine K. Appling
President
Wisconsin Family Action

David Nammo
CEO & Executive Director
Christian Legal Society

Cathie Humbarger
Executive Director
Allen County Right to Life

John Helmberger
Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Family Council

Elisa Martinez
Founder and Executive Director
New Mexico Alliance for Life

Lois Anderson
Executive Director
Oregon Right to Life