



Elections & Laws for Life

June 11, 2019

Dear Representative,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 700,000 members, strongly opposes and will score against H.R. 2740, the “*Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Legislative Branch, Defense, State, Foreign Operations, and Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2020*,” because of its significant violations of pro-life protections and policy. This package repeals the *Protect Life Rule*, overturns vital conscience protections, and repeals the *Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance* policy.

At the beginning of this Congress, members of the [House of Representatives](#) and [Senate](#) asked President Trump to promise to veto any legislation that weakens pro-life protections. [President Trump responded](#) with a firm guarantee to do so – whether the attacks come against pro-life laws or policies. His letter states, “I 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.” This appropriations package includes several attacks against pro-life policies, which will trigger the veto threat.

Within the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education title is language that would fully repeal President Trump’s *Protect Life Rule*, which restored regulations on Title X family planning funding. Under the *Protect Life Rule*, taxpayer-funded family planning centers cannot provide abortions or refer for abortion. Ending this rule will unleash the flow of taxpayer dollars to abortion providers. Funding for the Title X program was also increased to \$400 million from \$286 million, raising the potential for additional abuse of this program. The *Protect Life Rule* would remove funding for abortion centers like Planned Parenthood. However, the rule is currently in litigation, so Title X remains Planned Parenthood’s second largest federal funding stream.

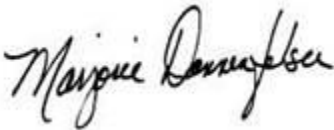
The title would also overturn the vital conscience protection rules recently finalized by the Department of Health and Human Services. These protections offer doctors, nurses and other health care providers a means of recourse when they face discrimination for refusing to participate in abortion. The need for this rule is clear. Encouraged that this administration will enforce conscience protections, complaints of such discrimination have increased dramatically. In 2018 alone, the number of complaints received was 34 times greater than the total number of complaints received during the eight years of the Obama administration.

The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Appropriations Bill repeals President Trump's *Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance*, the expanded Mexico City Policy. This policy ensures that our foreign assistance money goes to worthy providers who respect the life, dignity, and values of women and families worldwide, rather than to groups pushing an abortion agenda. It is critical that this policy remain in place. The bill also dramatically increases funding for international family planning from \$575 million to \$700 million. While the *Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance* policy prevents this funding stream from benefiting foreign nongovernmental abortion promoters, it continues to fund U.S.-based organizations that promote abortion overseas and should not be increased.

During consideration of these bills, Democratic appropriators mentioned their fear of triggering President Trump's veto promise, but nonetheless offered an appropriations package that "weakens current pro-life Federal policies." Simply maintaining such long-standing policies as the Hyde Amendment while simultaneously gutting many other significant pro-life policies is unacceptable.

Susan B. Anthony List will score against H.R. 2740, and any hostile amendments to further undermine pro-life laws or policies. In addition, any amendments to restore pro-life protections in this extreme bill will be considered in our scorecard for the 116th Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marjorie Dannenfelser". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List