



Elections & Laws for Life

July 29, 2020

Dear Representative,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 837,000 members, strongly opposes and will score against H.R. 7617, the “*Defense, Commerce, Justice, Science, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2021*,” because of its significant violations of pro-life protections and policy.

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.”

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 Title X taxpayer dollars to abortion providers. This appropriations bill requires Title X providers to inform pregnant women and girls of abortion services. Title X was Planned Parenthood’s second largest funding stream, but because of the currently enacted Protect Life Rule, Planned Parenthood has opted out of approximately \$60 million, choosing abortion over funding. Not only does this bill repeal the Protect Life Rule, but it restores funding for providers who qualified before the Rule.

The title would also overturn the vital conscience protection rules finalized by the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the recent rule clarifying that the federal definition of sex discrimination under the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557) does not include abortion. 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.

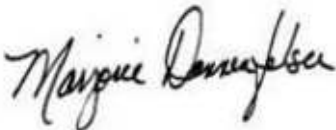
Additionally, a hostile amendment was added into the manager's amendment that had been previously offered and withdrawn by Rep. Frankel (Frankel #66). The amendment's language prevents implementation of the Trump Administration's rules regarding religious and moral exemptions for contraceptive coverage under the Affordable Care Act. This is in direct contradiction to the recent Supreme Court ruling that upheld the President's conscience protection rules and therefore protected the Little Sisters of the Poor from having to provide abortifacient drugs.

The Financial Services and General Government title in H.R. 7617 guts the longstanding, lifesaving Dornan Amendment, sometimes referred to as the District of Columbia (D.C.) Hyde Amendment. The Dornan Amendment is a funding ban that was put in place to ensure that taxpayer money would not finance abortions in the District of Columbia. In 2009, Democrats succeeded in temporarily repealing the amendment, which was quickly restored in 2011. During that time, taxpayers tragically paid for no less than 300 abortions in Washington, D.C.

Democratic appropriators are aware of President Trump's veto promise, but nonetheless offered an egregious appropriations package that significantly "weakens current pro-life Federal policies," including in the ways listed above.

Susan B. Anthony List will score against H.R. 7617, 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