



March 5, 2021

Dear Senator,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 900,000 members, opposes and will score against the Schumer substitute #891 to H.R. 1319, the so-called American Rescue Plan, because of the significant expansion of funding for abortion, insurance that includes abortion, and the abortion industry.

While prior bipartisan COVID relief packages have included Hyde protections on funding streams that fall outside of existing limits on abortion funding, this bill departs from the status quo by leaving funds open to use for abortion. COVID relief money should be used for life-affirming purposes. However, this bill appropriates large sums of money for health activities and for community health centers outside of the Labor, Health, and Human Services appropriations. The Schumer substitute adds to the House bill \$8.5 billion in provider relief funds. All of these funding streams have been purposefully exempted from the protection of the Hyde amendment, allowing the money to be used for elective abortion, destroying rather than saving life.

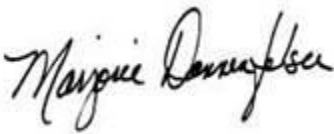
The Schumer substitute also uses federal funds to fully subsidize COBRA coverage during the pandemic, even if the coverage includes elective abortion. The principle of the Hyde amendment is that taxpayers do not fund abortion or health benefits coverage that includes abortion. Historically, COBRA has not been federally funded, so application of the Hyde principle has not been necessary. However, when COBRA goes from being privately funded to being publicly funded, the Hyde amendment must be applied to those plans paid for with public funds. Without Hyde protections for COBRA subsidies in this bill, the federal government will be directly subsidizing abortion coverage using taxpayer dollars, in violation of longstanding prohibitions on taxpayer funding for abortion.

Following President Biden's direction to Health and Human Services to review and change the Protect Life Rule that stopped Title X funds from going to abortion providers, this bill would funnel \$50 million into what is often referred to as Planned Parenthood's slush fund. It is no coincidence that Planned Parenthood lost approximately \$50 million when it refused to comply with the Protect Life Rule.

Additionally, the bill includes funding for International Affairs, much of which falls outside of Helms protections. Similar to the Hyde amendment for domestic funding, the Helms Amendment limits the use of foreign assistance funds being used for abortion. For example, this title includes \$500 million for humanitarian assistance that is appropriated outside of the Foreign Assistance Act, which includes the Helms Amendment. International assistance also lacks the Siljander Amendment, which prohibits funds from being used to lobby for or against abortion.

Susan B. Anthony List opposed and scored against H.R. 1319 in the House, and opposes and will score against H.R. 1319 as amended by Schumer substitute #891. We strongly support and will score in favor of amendments to mitigate the funding of abortion, abortion coverage, or abortion providers.

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