



October 12, 2021

Dear Representative,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 900,000 members from all 50 states, opposes and will score against H.R. 2119, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act due to changes to the program, and how it is funded, without Hyde protections.

Under current statute, the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) does not fund health care reimbursements. Such expenses are instead handled by other health programs like Medicaid. Specifically, 42 U.S.C. §10408(b)(1) states that the funds “shall be used to provide shelter, supportive services, or prevention services...which may include...medical advocacy, including provision of referrals for appropriate health care services...but which shall not include reimbursement for any health care services.” However, H.R. 2119 amends the statute striking the clause prohibiting the funds from being used for health care reimbursements and authorizes \$327.5 million in annual appropriations for FVPSA through 2026, of which \$270 million is authorized annually for the FVPSA program.

This change is significant when combined with several simultaneous changes to the manner in which funds are appropriated for FVPSA. Appropriations for this program have typically been made in the Labor, Health and Human Services (LHHS) bill, with the protection of the Hyde amendment. However, the House-passed consolidated LHHS appropriations bill H.R. 4502 specifically eliminated the Hyde Amendment and appropriated nearly \$450 million to the FVPSA. Simultaneously, §25002 of the draft reconciliation bill appropriates \$27 million for fiscal year 2022 for FVPSA. Because the Hyde amendment does not apply to the reconciliation bill, this money would now be available to be used to reimburse the costs for abortion services.

Attempts were made in the Education and Labor Committee markup to amend H.R. 2119 to reinstate the status quo prohibition on reimbursement for health care services and to attach Hyde protections to the authorizing language. However, because these amendments were not adopted, the language in H.R. 2119 changes the statute of the FVPSA, for the first time exposing this funding to use for abortion services.

Susan B. Anthony List strongly opposes this and other similar efforts to erode the Hyde Amendment or fund health care outside of Hyde protections. Susan B. Anthony List will score against H.R. 2119.

Sincerely,

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony List