

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Office of the Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Office of the Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

In light of legislation that has recently been introduced in the House of Representatives, we write to advise you that we will oppose attempts to undermine pro-life protections, and to direct taxpayer dollars to fund abortion and health care plans that include abortion.

Abortion is not health care, and the majority of Americans oppose funding it with taxpayer dollars.¹ The Hyde Amendment, passed for the first time over forty years ago, protects all taxpayer dollars appropriated through the Labor-HHS appropriations bill from being used to pay for abortions or insurance plans covering abortions. This includes preventing federal Medicaid dollars from paying for abortions. According to one estimate, one in every nine people born to a mother on Medicaid is alive because of the Hyde amendment.² Research indicates that, since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has saved the lives of over 2 million unborn children.³ The Hyde Amendment and other similar pro-life legislative protections must be preserved.

“The Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance Woman Act,” H.R. 771, from the 115th Congress is an example of legislation that would eliminate the Hyde Amendment. It would require the federal government to provide abortion through Medicaid, Medicare, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and in its capacity as an employer and health care provider. Women and children deserve better than abortion. It is a brutal procedure that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. This human rights abuse should not be paid for or encouraged by the U.S. Government.

Another example, “The Medicare for All Act of 2019,” H.R. 1384, explicitly undermines the Hyde Amendment. This legislation states that no current provision of law that “restrict[s] the use of Federal funds for any reproductive health service” will apply to the funding in the bill. In other words, the Hyde Amendment would not apply to the new Medicare funds. These provisions reflect an extreme abortion agenda that is opposed by the majority of Americans.

Legislation that seeks to change funding within the framework of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) may also undermine pro-life protections. The ACA departed dramatically from the longstanding Hyde Amendment principle. It not only lacked statutory protection against funding abortion, it allowed taxpayer dollars to fund insurance plans that cover abortion on demand.

¹ <https://www.kofc.org/un/en/resources/communications/american-attitudes-abortion-knights-of-columbus-marist-poll-slides.pdf>

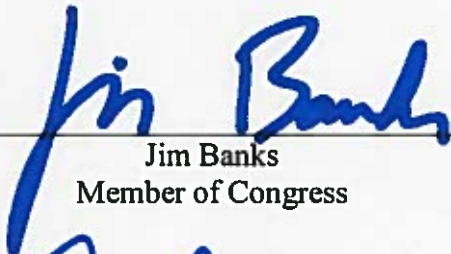
² <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/Hyde-@-40-Executive-Summary-updated-1.pdf>

³ https://s27589.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/OP_hyde_9.28.3.pdf

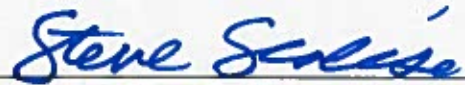
There has been interest in legislation providing mandatory appropriations to fund reinsurance and cost-sharing reduction (CSR) subsidies for ACA plans. As this legislation is considered, please keep in mind that if abortion is not explicitly excluded from health care programs and funding, it is included by default. Any failure to ensure that these payments do not support health insurance plans that cover abortion presents a serious pro-life problem. Without protection, this legislation would statutorily authorize a new abortion subsidy.

As you know, President Donald Trump has committed to “veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life federal policies and laws, or that encourages the destruction of innocent human life at any stage.” We are grateful for this strong pro-life commitment, and we will stand with him in defending protections like the Hyde Amendment that prevent taxpayer dollars from funding abortion and plans that include abortion. As you consider health care policy in the 116th Congress, we urge you to ensure that the Hyde Amendment is extended to cover all relevant funding.

Sincerely,



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs
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David Rouzer
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Kenny Marchant
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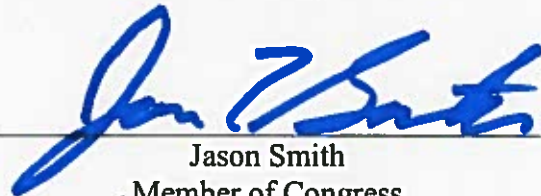
Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



Brad Wenstrup
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
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Ken Buck
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Billy Long
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann
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Steve Chabot
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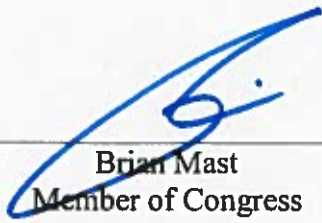
Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



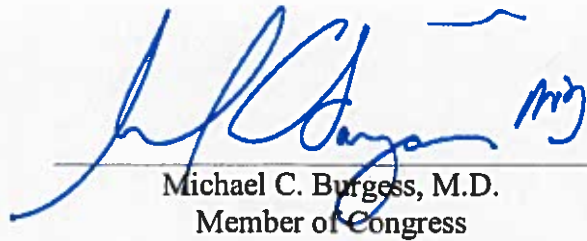
Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo
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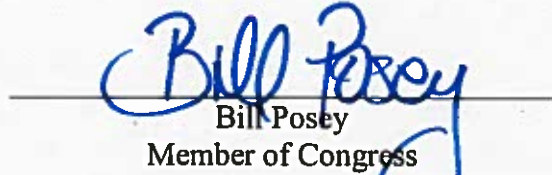
Brian Mast
Member of Congress



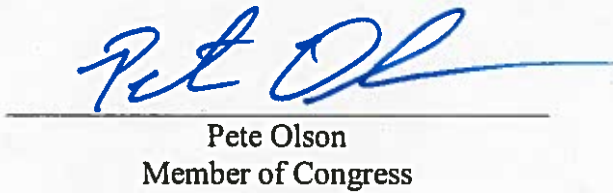
Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
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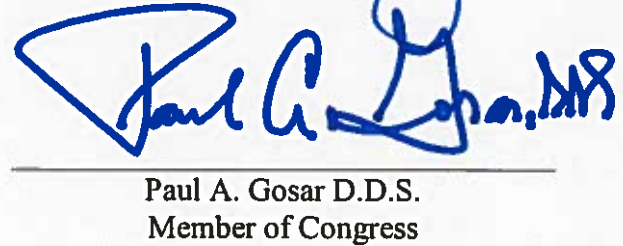
Mark Meadows
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Bill Posey
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Pete Olson
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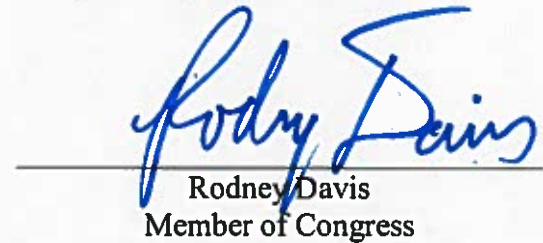
Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.
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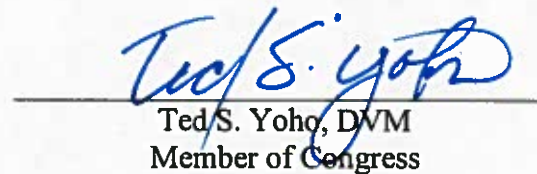
Jim Jordan
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Patrick McHenry
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Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



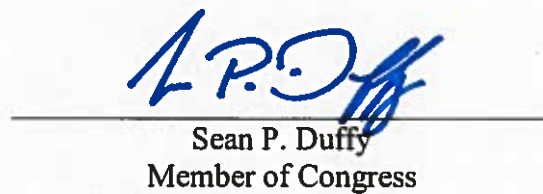
Ted S. Yoho, DVM
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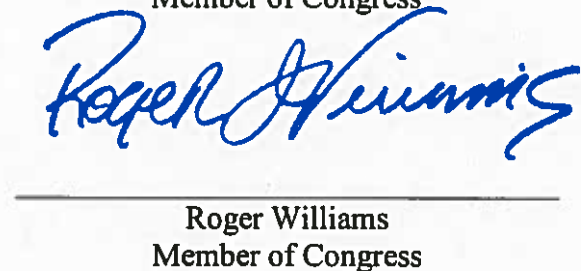
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Matt Gaetz
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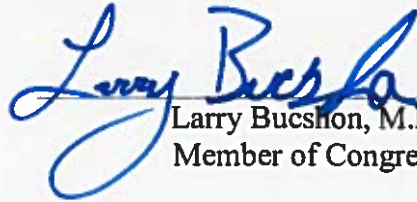
Sean P. Duffy
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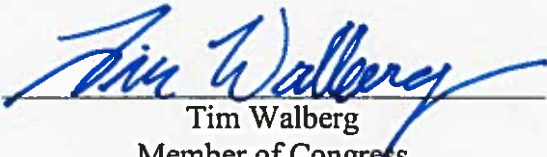
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Tim Walberg
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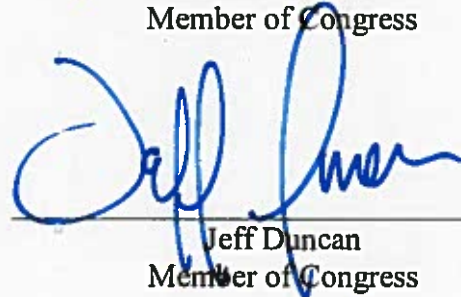
Chris Collins
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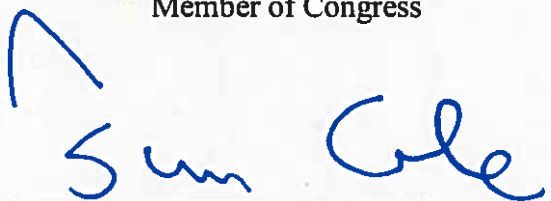
Gus M. Bilirakis
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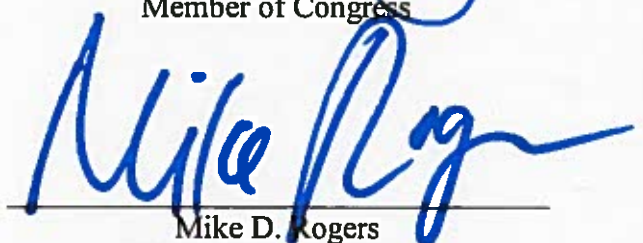
John Shimkus
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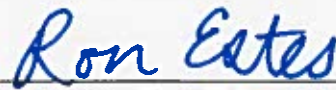
Tom Cole
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Mike D. Rogers
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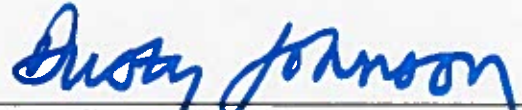
French Hill
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Dusty Johnson
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Mike Bost
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Joe Wilson
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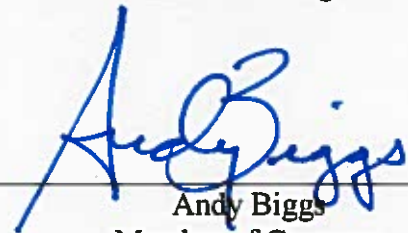
Darin LaHood
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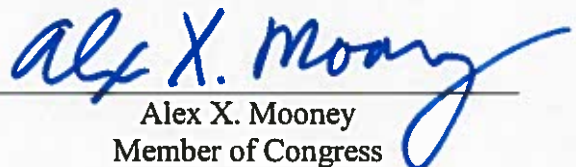
Van Taylor
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Andy Biggs
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Alex X. Mooney
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John Rose
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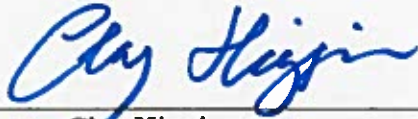
Greg Gianforte
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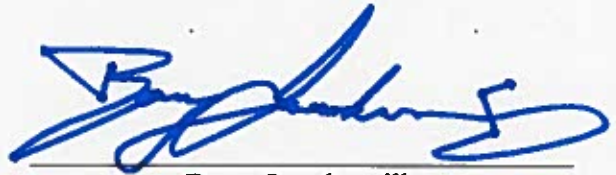
Martha Roby
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Ron Wright
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Clay Higgins
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Mike Johnson
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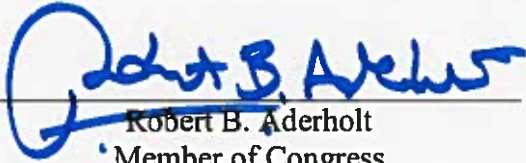
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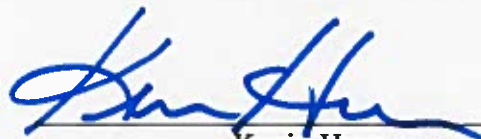
Robert B. Aderholt
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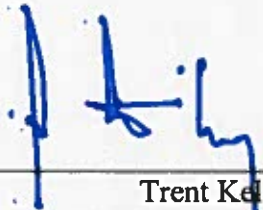
Jodey Arrington
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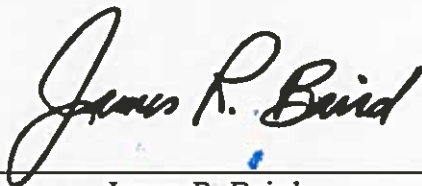
Trent Kelly
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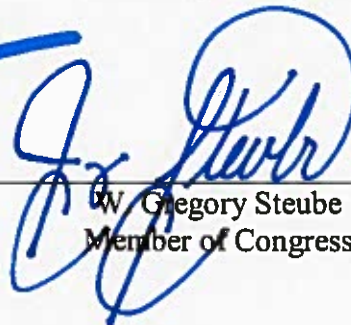
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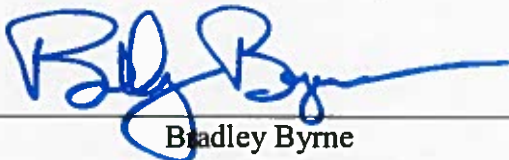
Paul Mitchell
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Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



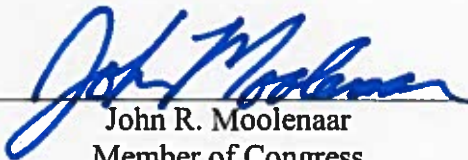
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Bradley Byrne
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Ted Budd
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John R. Moolenaar
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