

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 21, 2019

Chairman Richard Shelby
United States Senate
Chairman, Senate Appropriations Committee
304 Russell Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Shelby,

As the Senate Appropriations Committee drafts legislation for Fiscal Year 2020, we urge you to retain all long-standing pro-life and religious freedom protections in all appropriations bills that advance out of the Appropriations Committee. We also ask that you do not advance as bill text any language that weakens pro-life and religious liberty actions taken by the Trump administration.

The unborn are the most vulnerable members of our society, yet they are under attack. In 2015 alone, 638,169 unborn children lost their lives to abortion. This is a terrible tragedy, and we must continue to prevent federal funding from supporting the unjust practice of elective abortion.

Furthermore, the right to live and worship in accordance with one's religious beliefs is a bedrock principle of the American founding. The First Amendment of the Constitution prohibits Congress from interfering in the free exercise of religion. With this in mind, it is critical to retain the longstanding riders in appropriations legislation that safeguard the ability of citizens to live out their faith.

Additionally, we request that no riders be added that would threaten the Trump administration's Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy. This policy prevents federal funds from being directed to organizations that provide abortions or advocate for abortion policies overseas. A Marist poll conducted earlier this year showed that 75 percent of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion abroad.¹ Similarly, we urge you not to include any language that jeopardizes the administration's pro-life Title X rule or its conscience rule. These rules also offer important pro-life protections that must be maintained.

President Trump has committed to veto any legislation that weakens current pro-life Federal policies and laws. Similarly, we remain committed to ensuring that no such legislation ever makes it to the President's desk and will carefully review each appropriation bill to verify that

¹ <http://kofc.org/en/en/news/polls.html#/>

they preserve pro-life and religious liberty protections that the Senate's pro-life majority has supported for decades.

Sincerely,

Prof. J. E.

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Mike Braun

Mr. Th

Michael B. Enji

John H. H. H.

Kevin L. L.

James M. M.

John O. O.

Rand Paul

Seb T. T.

Thom Tillis

Rob Portman

John Barrasso

Aprona Blackburn Lyndy Wicker

Mike Cryso Joe [unclear]

Cindy Hyde-Smith Steve Davis

Jim Scott M. Michael [unclear]

Pat Roberts Jim [unclear]

Ben Sasse _____

Signers:

Senator Michael S. Lee

Senator Roy Blunt

Senator Mike Braun

Senator Marco Rubio

Senator Michael B. Enzi

Senator Josh Hawley

Senator Kevin Cramer

Senator James M. Inhofe

Senator James E. Risch

Senator Rand Paul

Senator Deb Fischer

Senator Thom Tillis

Senator Rob Portman

Senator John Barrasso

Senator Marsha Blackburn

Senator Roger Wicker

Senator Mike Crapo

Senator James Lankford

Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith

Senator Steve Daines

Senator Rick Scott

Senator M. Michael Rounds

Senator Pat Roberts

Senator Tim Scott

Senator Ben Sasse