



*Elections & Laws for Life*

February 25, 2021

Dear Representative,

I write to advise you that Susan B. Anthony List, on behalf of our more than 900,000 members, opposes and will score against 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, purposefully exempting the funds from the protection of the Hyde amendment. This would allow the funding to be used for elective abortion, destroying rather than saving life.

H.R. 1319 also uses federal funds to 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.

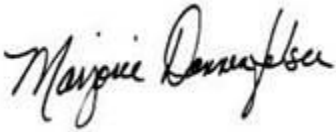
The Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was carefully constructed last year to ensure that organizations such as Planned Parenthood would not be able to receive funds. This bill changes the requirements for which organizations qualify for PPP forgivable loans so that Planned Parenthood would qualify. Additionally, 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 Managers' Amendment 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 in the Manager's Amendment also lacks the Siljander Amendment, which prohibits funds from being used to lobby for or against abortion.

Susan B. Anthony List opposes and will score against H.R. 1319. We strongly support any 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