



March 9, 2021

Representative

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of Family Research Council (FRC) and the thousands of families we represent, I urge you to oppose Senate Substitute Amendment #891 to the *American Rescue Plan Act of 2021* (H.R. 1319). This \$1.9 trillion COVID-19 relief package is the most substantial deviation from Hyde principles in decades, as it appropriates over \$400 billion in funds that can be used to subsidize abortion. FRC will score against Senate Substitute Amendment #891 to H.R. 1319.

First, the Amendment breaks from the bipartisan precedent set in the 116th Congress to include the Hyde Amendment and similar provisions to ensure that funds intended for COVID relief are not used to subsidize abortion. It appropriates billions for Community Health Centers, testing, and expanding the public health workforce, all without including any Hyde protections. It also allocates an additional \$50 million for the Title X Family Planning Program, with the intent of helping abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, which withdrew from the program after President Trump implemented the *Protect Life Rule*.

Second, this Amendment would break 47 years of congressional precedent by appropriating over \$700 million of global health funds not subject to the Helms Amendment, which prohibits taxpayer funding

of abortion abroad. Using taxpayer funds for overseas abortion is extremely unpopular, as 77 percent of Americans (including 55 percent of Democrats) oppose this policy. Additionally, the Amendment allocates \$10 billion in foreign affairs funding not subject to the Siljander Amendment. This means these funds can be used to lobby for abortion overseas.

Third, the Amendment creates a \$350 billion bailout for state and local governments without providing any pro-life protections. A state or locality could use the bailout funds to pay for abortions directly—all they would have to do is classify the abortions as part of their pandemic response. The Amendment rewards large, liberal states that use state funds to pay for abortions and subsidize Planned Parenthood, despite not having enough money in their budgets to cover pandemic-related expenses.

Lastly, this Amendment would subsidize health care plans that cover elective abortion. It would cover the full costs of health care premiums for employees who lost their jobs but elected to remain on their employer-sponsored health program. These COBRA health plans are usually covered fully by the consumer; however, this subsidy would appropriate millions of taxpayer dollars to cover employer-sponsored health plans, many of which include abortion coverage.

Congress should focus on addressing the current national health crisis and protecting families, not passing an abortion industry wish list. For these reasons, FRC will score against Senate Substitute Amendment #891 to H.R. 1319.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Travis Weber", with a stylized, cursive script.

Travis Weber

Vice President for Policy and Government Affairs