



April 16, 2024

Dear Esteemed Members of the U.S. House and U.S. Senate,

Whether the law allows for people to be disenfranchised and abandoned to fate is a debate our nation has engaged in too many times. From Black Americans treated as property or relegated to separate but “equal” status; to women ignored as second-class citizens, or the preborn erased as human beings by lawyerly wordsmithing, many lives have been risked through political games.

Addressing such wide-spread injustice is not limited to any one branch of government or any one state as citizens across-the-board bear the burden of failed policies. Students for Life Action today calls on our elected officials in the U.S. Congress to address in legislation and in funding the human rights issue of our day – abortion – by protecting mothers and their children, born and preborn.

The Supreme Court’s hijacking of abortion allowed many in Congress to ignore the issue, saying the matter was out of their hands. And now, some speculate on whether the open invitation to states to engage on life-related policy means that again Congress is not needed or welcome. We’ve been down this road before. **Our nation has played with addressing such injustices through all kind of legal lines before, free states v. slave states as an example, but it ultimately failed and at great social cost.**

We can’t delegate ending the injustice of abortion to states alone. All of us at every level of society, and especially legislators, need to reverse almost 50 years of public policy that allowed the life-ending harms of abortion to continue with taxpayer support.

Our federal government is far from abortion neutral. Pro-abortion policy and funding are intertwined throughout our federal government like a cancer, siphoning taxpayer resources for policies that end in the death of the preborn. As the *New York Times* reported recently, *The Federal Government Subsidizes Abortions. Will That Last?*

As President Biden notes, abortion funding, policy, and goals can be found in the Office of the Vice President, the Office of White House Counsel, the Domestic Policy Council, the National Economic Council, the National Security Council, the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Department of Defense, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Education, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Labor, Department of the Treasury, Department of Transportation, Department of Veterans Affairs, Federal Communications Commission, Federal Trade Commission, Office of Management and Budget, and the Office of Personnel Management.

While ineffective on many fronts, **the Biden Administration delivers death by abortion as a policy fully metastasized throughout the federal government**, with horrifying, new efforts in a push at HHS and the DOE to change the language of sex and discrimination creating [“a stealth plan to reestablish Roe.”](#)

Abortion funding can be found in the budgets of the [Department of Health and Human Services](#) where healthcare policy and mandates of all kinds dictate spending, in [Department of Defense and Education](#) spending through school based and international aid, proposed in the [Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act](#). It's found in funding to Planned Parenthood through Title X funds as well in grants from HHS as the U.S. Government Accountability Act notes. Abortion funding was even [placed in the fine print of COVID relief](#), as though ending lives was part of saving lives. And this list is hardly definitive.

According to a Government Accountability Office (GAO) [report released in 2023](#), Planned Parenthood received over \$1.7 billion from 2019 to 2021. This amount included \$90.4 million that was allegedly, illegally taken from the Paycheck Protection Program. The same [GAO report](#) identified that the International Planned Parenthood Federation received another \$2 million, and four domestic regional abortion providers took more than \$107 million. This is not even all of the government funding the abortion industry receives, because unfortunately, there is no comprehensive tracking on this, which is likely why Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) has announced a pending measure to track abortion related funding in our Veterans Affairs spending. Such wide spread funding has led to introduction of the [No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act](#), in which it's noted, “Historically, language has been included in annual appropriations bills for the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) that prohibits the use of federal funds for abortions—such language is commonly referred to as the Hyde Amendment. Similar language is also frequently included in appropriations bills for other federal agencies and the District of Columbia. The bill makes these restrictions permanent and extends the restrictions to all federal funds (rather than specific agencies).”

Because abortion funding infiltrates multiple budgets, a number of tools have been employed to cut abortion industry access to taxpayer funds. The [Heritage Foundation](#) describes them as follows:

1. “The [Hyde Amendment](#) (1976) that prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from spending taxpayer dollars for most abortions;
2. “[The Helms Amendment](#) (1973) that restricts foreign aid funds from being expended on abortions;
3. “The Smith Amendment (1983) that prohibits funding elective abortions in the Federal Employee Health Benefits program;
4. “The Dornan Amendment (1989) that prohibits funding elective abortions within Washington, D.C.; and
5. “The Weldon Amendment (2004) that protects health care providers from discrimination on the basis of their refusal to provide and pay for abortions or refer women to have them. The Department of Health and Human Services Office for Civil Rights enforces the Weldon Amendment.”

President Biden and his leadership team, [Speaker Nancy Pelosi](#) and [Sen. Chuck Schumer](#), certainly take the view that abortion policy is a federal prerogative, as they called for passage of

the radical *Women's Health Protection Act*, expanded abortion mandates at the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Education, and reduced health and safety standards for women taking Chemical Abortion Pills, courtesy of FDA fiat. With all kinds of new abortion task forces and priorities, those leading the Democratic Party have made it clear that abortion policy is also federal policy – no matter what is also attempted by the states.

For once, I agree with them. **Abortion is a federal issue.**

No single vote, court case, law, or program can reverse the consequences of almost 50 years of death by abortion. Restoring a *Culture of Life* includes restoring hope to a generation raised to believe that women don't have what it takes to succeed unless they can end life in the womb. It includes strengthening a strong support system for young families. And it includes the efforts of all of us, wherever we work and live, to rebuild a framework that protects life in law.

As former President Ronald Reagan observed: "Abraham Lincoln recognized that we could not survive as a free land when some men could decide that others were not fit to be free and therefore be slaves. Likewise, we cannot survive as a free nation when some men decide that others are not fit to live and should be abandoned to abortion or infanticide."


It's natural that there are growing pains in the pro-life movement and among those who work to protect life in law, as we consider options closed to us for so long -- before some reading this letter may even have been born.

Students for Life Action is calling on the U.S. Congress to use every tool available as abortion impacts us all. We call on Congress to get out of business with Corporate Abortion and fully defund them; to protect the freedom and conscience rights of pro-life Americans, particularly on school campuses and in the health care industry; to build and defend a strong support system for young families; and to end the bias in favor of abortion vendors in policy and programming.

Given the already extensive engagement of the federal government on the issue of abortion, national leaders must act to right a terrible wrong in our law, policy, and spending.

Sincerely,

Kristan Hawkins

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristan Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

President
Students for Life Action