

March 3, 2011

Dear Representative:

As representatives of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to support H.R. 3, the No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, and to oppose all amendments that would weaken H.R. 3 in the Judiciary Committee's full Committee markup on Thursday.

The No Taxpayer Funding of Abortion Act, introduced by Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) in January, establishes a permanent government-wide prohibition on taxpayer funding for abortion and insurance coverage that includes abortion.

Importantly, H.R. 3 also codifies the Hyde-Weldon amendment to protect health care providers, health care institutions, and health insurance providers against discrimination by the government on the basis that they do not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions. H.R. 3 prevents government discrimination by ensuring that health care entities are not forced to violate their conscience. Moreover, H.R. 3 safeguards the many men and women who seek, for themselves or their children, health care providers, hospitals, and insurance plans that do not support abortion.

H.R. 3 also contains a private right of action for health care providers whose conscience rights have been violated or threatened. Without a private right of action, health care providers are dependent on the government to pursue their case. The recent weakening of federal regulations designed to protect conscience rights underscores the necessity for Congressional action in this regard; health care providers must have an effective means to enforce their rights written in the law. The protection of the basic civil right to provide care without participating in life-destructive activities must not be dependent on the whims of an Administration that has made expanding abortion central to its mission.

The principle that nobody should be forced to participate in an abortion is common-sense, but attacks on conscience are commonplace. The abortion industry has made it clear that its agenda includes targeting the constitutional rights of those who disagree with them by seeking to compel healthcare professionals, Catholic hospitals, and other unwilling groups and individuals to participate in abortions regardless of their religious, moral, or ethical convictions against the practice.

To ensure that health care providers' rights of conscience are protected, and to ensure that Americans are not forced to support abortion and subsidize the abortion industry with their tax dollars, we ask that you support H.R. 3.

Sincerely,

Charmaine Yoest, Ph.D.
President & CEO



Samuel B. Casey
Managing Director &
General Counsel
LAW OF LIFE PROJECT

David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)
CEO
CHRISTIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Penny Nance
CEO
Concerned Women for America



Sister Renee Mirkes, OSF, PhD
Ethics Director
Center for NaProEthics
The Ethics Division of the
Pope Paul VI Institute



CENTER FOR
NaProETHICS
Probing the Catholic View of Natural Procreative Ethics

Mike O'Dea
Executive Director
Christus Medicus Foundation

Mary Davenport, M.D.
President

ProLifeOB|GYNS

AAPLOG American Association of Pro-Life
Obstetricians & Gynecologists



Jan R. Hemstad, M.D.
President
Catholic Medical Association

Tom McClusky
Senior Vice President
Family Research Council Action

Dr. Richard Land
President
The Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
Southern Baptist Convention

Marie T. Hilliard, JCL, PhD, RN
Director of Bioethics and Public Policy
The National Catholic Bioethics Center

Fred Potter, Esq.
Executive Director & CEO
Christian Legal Society



Dr. Jean Golden-Tevard
President
The American Academy of
Fertility Care Professionals