

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act authored by Senator Roger Wicker

Why does America need The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act?

For over 30 years, a patchwork of policies has regulated federal funding for abortion. Taken together, these policies ensure that the American taxpayer is not involved in funding the destruction of innocent human life through abortion on demand.

However, most of these existing funding policies are attached to annual appropriations bills which must be reapproved every year and could be eliminated at any time. Additionally, these existing “riders” do not apply to all programs. They only apply to the programs funded through the appropriations bills to which they are attached.

*The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would establish a **government-wide statutory prohibition** on abortion funding. This comprehensive approach will reduce the need for separate abortion funding policies and ensure that no federal program is exempt from this prohibition.*

Without explicit prohibitions on abortion, history has shown that unelected bureaucrats or courts will interpret silence as authorization to mandate coverage for abortion services and pay for abortions on demand. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act will ensure once-and-for-all that no taxpayer dollars are used to fund abortions.

What will The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act do?

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would **make permanent** the policies that currently rely on yearly approval, including:

- The **Hyde Amendment**, which prohibits funding for elective abortion coverage through any program funded through the annual Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act;
- The **Helms Amendment**, which prohibits funding for abortion as a method of family planning overseas;
- The **Smith FEHBP Amendment**, which prohibits funding for elective abortion coverage for federal employees;
- The **Dornan Amendment**, which prohibits the use of congressionally appropriated funds for abortion in the District of Columbia;
- Other policies such as the restrictions on elective abortion funding through Peace Corps and Federal prisons.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would codify the **Hyde-Weldon conscience clause** that is part of the Hyde Amendment. This would ensure that recipients of federal funding do not discriminate against health care providers, including doctors, nurses and hospitals, because the providers do not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or refer for abortions.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would eliminate certain tax benefits related to abortion, including:

- Disallowing premium tax-credits or “exchange subsidies” created by the 2010 health care law for subsidizing the premiums of health insurance plans offered in the government-run exchanges that offer abortion coverage;
- Disallowing small business tax credits, also created by the 2010 health care law, for a subset of small businesses purchasing for employees health insurance plans that offer abortion coverage;
- Ending the policy of providing tax-preferred status for abortion through Archer Medical Savings Accounts, Health Savings Accounts, and Health Flexible Spending Arrangements (FSA’s)
- Disallowing abortions to be included as an itemized deduction for medical expenses exceeding 7.5% (10% after 2012) of adjusted gross income.

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 3, The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act introduced by Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL), on Wednesday with a vote of 251-175. The bill merges the legislative language reported out of the House Judiciary Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee. The Senate language is identical to the bill that passed the House.

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