

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510


Dear Chair Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

We write to express our support for the Hyde Amendment, which has been included in annual appropriations bills on a bipartisan basis since 1976. Specifically, this amendment prohibits federal funding for elective abortion coverage, except in the case of rape, incest, or if the mother's life is in danger, through any program funded through the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act. The Hyde Amendment is a decades-long, consensus-building compromise, and we urge you to maintain this longstanding provision in the Fiscal Year 2022 bill.

Recent public polls show almost 60 percent of Americans oppose or strongly oppose using taxpayer dollars to support abortion. Both Democrat and Republican Presidents have signed the Hyde Amendment into law. It has passed through both Democrat and Republican controlled Congresses, and it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 1980. Repealing this provision would eliminate over 40 years of bipartisan precedent.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you as the appropriations process moves forward.

Sincerely,


Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator


Joe Manchin III
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Roy Blunt
The Honorable Chuck Schumer
The Honorable Mitch McConnell