



FROM: RSC Staff

TO: RSC Members

RE: H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act

Potential Floor Consideration:

Since [January](#), it has been reported that the House of Representatives is expected to take up [H.R. 7](#), the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act (Rep. Smith, R-NJ).

H.R. 7 Summary:

Put simply, this legislation simply would ensure that no U.S. taxpayer funds goes toward abortion.

H.R. 7 would codify what is commonly referred to as the Hyde amendment and expand it to all federal funding. Similarly, H.R. 7 would clarify that health insurance plans that provide elective abortion would be ineligible for federal funding. The bill would also prohibit abortion from being practiced in federal facilities or by federal employees.

During the 115th Congress (the last time Republican's held a majority in the House), H.R. 7 passed by a vote of [238-183](#) on January 24, 2017. The legislation ***passed with universal Republican support***, as well as the support of three Democrats.

Why H.R. 7 is Necessary:

Historically, taxpayer funding of abortions has generally been prohibited by language included in annual appropriations. Most well-known, the "Hyde amendment" prohibits federal funding from funding abortion through Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations. Similar restrictions have regularly been included in State and Foreign Operations (SFOPS), Financial Services and General Government (FSGG), and Commerce, Justice, and Science (CJS) appropriations.

While current law pro-life appropriations protections are critically important, this process is not without shortcomings. These Hyde-like protections are not permanent and must be reenacted annually through the appropriations process.¹ Additionally, offering a patchwork of pro-life protections creates uncertainty as to what funding is protected and creates massive loopholes forcing taxpayers to fund abortion in various circumstances. For example, because of Obamacare

¹ One exception is that permanent law contains a prohibition on abortion funding for the Department of Defense.

alone taxpayers currently are required to subsidize [912 insurance plans](#) that provide abortion on demand.

Even though these abortion funding prohibitions are in danger of elimination every year through the appropriations process, they are presently the law of the land. H.R. 7 would simply be making them permanent.

History of Hyde:

The Hyde amendment has long enjoyed bi-partisan support both in Washington D.C. and around the country. *Since [1976](#), Congress has included the [Hyde amendment](#), and similar protections, in annually enacted appropriations.* Until [2021](#), the Hyde amendment was regularly included in Presidential budget requests, *even former President [Obama included Hyde in his annual budget proposals](#).*

Support for preventing taxpayer funding for abortion has occupied the [mainstream of public opinion](#) for decades and [recent polling](#) continues to demonstrate a clear majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funds going towards abortion.

Prior RSC Action on Hyde:

Last Congress, former RSC Chairman Jim Banks (R-IN) led a policy campaign to [save the Hyde amendment](#) and *spearheaded a letter to Congressional leadership signed by [200 House Republicans](#) demonstrating continued support for the Hyde amendment and prohibiting taxpayer funding from going toward abortion.*

Democrat Flip-Flop on Taxpayer Funding for Abortion:

In recent years, Democrats in Washington have abandoned the mainstream on this issue and embraced the radical Left's position that taxpayers should be forced to fund elective abortion. Nobody has better demonstrated this flipflop than President Joe Biden. During his decades long career as Senator and Vice President, Biden supported the Hyde amendment, yet he [reversed](#) course during in 2019 when pursuing the Democrat nomination for President of the United States.

Now Democrats are resolute in their crusade to require taxpayers to fund abortion. In 2021, President Biden became the [first](#) President in decades to remove the Hyde amendment from his annual budget proposal. Similarly, last Congress for the [first](#) time in decades Congressional Democrats reported appropriations bills that repealed Hyde and fully funded taxpayer abortion. Now the Biden administration is even finding ways to subvert the law and fund abortion across government, including through the [Pentagon](#).

Bottom line:

H.R. 7 should be enacted and conservatives should stand together to support 45 years of bi-partisan precedent and commonsense conscience protections for taxpayers, or risk reversing the unanimous position of the previous House Republican majority and setting the table for national taxpayer funding for the Democrats' increasingly radical abortion policies.