Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

In the coming weeks, we will work to address the needs of millions of Americans who have lost their healthcare coverage due to COVID-19. As in any debate regarding healthcare, it is imperative to the American people that Hyde Amendment protections are applied to any funding or tax credits that may be used to address the health care needs of unemployed Americans.

Since 1976, the Hyde Amendment has been included in appropriations bills every year with bipartisan support. The provision prevents funding appropriated through the Department of Health and Human services from being used to fund abortion or insurance plans that include abortion. Polling consistently shows that a majority of Americans do not support using tax dollars to fund abortions. A Marist poll conducted in January 2020 found that 60% of individuals polled opposed or strongly opposed using tax dollars to pay for an abortion.¹

Despite the longstanding congressional and public support for the Hyde Amendment, there are already efforts underway to undercut and bypass these long-held protections.² It is imperative that we demonstrate to the American people that we are listening to them and producing legislation that is reflective of their views. More importantly, by establishing Hyde Amendment protections, we are demonstrating that Congress is working to save every life, no matter how small, in this pandemic.

Hyde Amendment protections should be applied to any funding or tax credit that is used to address the nation’s healthcare needs during these trying times. For these reasons, 133 Members of the House have supported H.R. 6742, the Protecting Life in Crisis Act. This straightforward legislation extends existing Hyde Amendment protections to any COVID-19-related healthcare provisions. Specifically, this bill prohibits any funds that are authorized or appropriated for the purposes of preventing, preparing for, or responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, domestically and internationally, from going towards abortions.

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or abortion coverage. In addition, this bill also addresses any attempts to use tax credits from being used to purchase coverage on the exchanges or for COBRA continuation coverage.

The respect for life is one of the founding principles of both our nation and of our healthcare system. No system that subsidizes abortions can be said to fully live up to that principle. H.R. 6742 is a critical step in ensuring accountability in how tax dollars are spent and upholding this principle, and we ask that you include this legislation in the next bipartisan COVID-19 relief package.

Sincerely,

K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress
Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress

Randy K. Weber  
Member of Congress

Phil Roe, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

Jody Hice  
Member of Congress

Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress

Will Hurd  
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress
Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress

Neal Dunn, M.D.
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Steve Watkins
Member of Congress

Mark Green
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Jim Hagedorn
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress
Warren Davidson
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress

Steven M. Palazzo
Member of Congress

Chuck Fleischmann
Member of Congress

Gary Palmer
Member of Congress

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

Greg Pence
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley P.E.
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford
Member of Congress
Carol D. Miller
Member of Congress

Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress

Kevin Hern
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Michael Cloud
Member of Congress

Greg Gianforte
Member of Congress

John Rose
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

Tom Emmer
Member of Congress

Michael Waltz
Member of Congress