

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 29, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on  
Appropriations  
2000 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and  
General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on  
Appropriations  
2000 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley and Ranking Member Graves,

Thank you for your leadership in drafting the upcoming Financial Services and General Government Appropriations (FSGG) Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

As you know, President Trump has committed in writing to veto any legislation that undermines or nullifies any existing pro-life policy. Furthermore, a recent Marist poll indicates that the majority of Americans believe that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion. With this in mind, we ask you to retain all long-standing pro-life limitation amendments as bill text. We also ask you to include two additional riders in the FSGG appropriations bill.

First, we request that you include language prohibiting funds from being used by the District of Columbia to carry out the “Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Amendment Act of 2014” (RHNDA). During the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, this language was included in Section 1107 of Title XI in Division D of H.R. 3354, which passed the House of Representatives on September 14, 2017.

RHNDNA amended the existing D.C. Human Rights Act to prohibit discrimination against any employee or anyone seeking employment based on the individual’s “reproductive health decisions,” including the decision to have an abortion. This means religious or pro-life advocacy groups could be forced to make personnel decisions that are inconsistent with their sincerely held beliefs about the sanctity of human life.

The First Amendment secures the right to free exercise of religion and association. Employment decisions by religious organizations are protected by this amendment and it is incumbent on Congress to defend the Constitution.

Second, we request that you include language ensuring that elective abortions are not covered by insurance plans provided under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) (P.L. 111-148) Multi-State Plan Program. During the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress, this language was included in Section 631 of Title VI in Division D of H.R. 3354, which passed the House of Representatives on September 14, 2017.

As you know, a multi-state plan is a private health insurance plan that is offered through the exchange under contract between an insurance company and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Pursuant to the ACA, OPM is required to establish a network of these plans with at least two plans offered in each state by 2017. According to OPM, Arkansas is the only state that offered MSPs for the 2018 enrollment year; it offered three MSP plans.

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Although these multi-state plans are intended to be like the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) Program, they are not covered by the Smith Amendment, which has prohibited elective abortion funding in the FEHBP since 1983. As such, to maintain a consistent pro-life policy to abortion funding in government-run health insurance programs, we respectfully request that you include the following language in this year's funding bill:

*Sec. xxx. No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion, or the administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the Multi-State Plan Program which provides any benefits or coverage for abortions.*


*Sec. xxx+1. The provision of section xxx shall not apply where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus was carried to term, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.*

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,

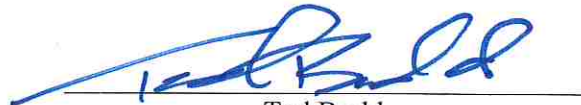
  
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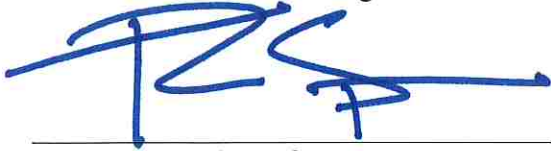
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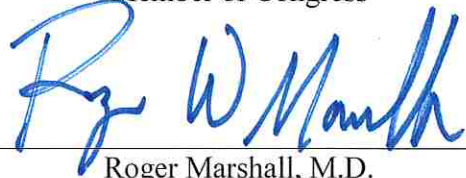
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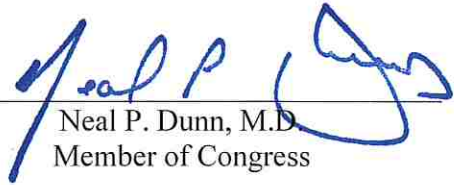
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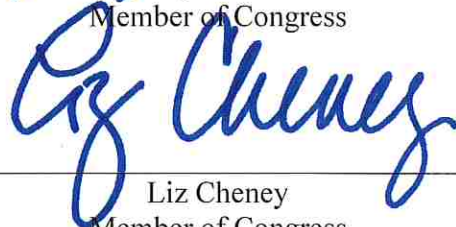
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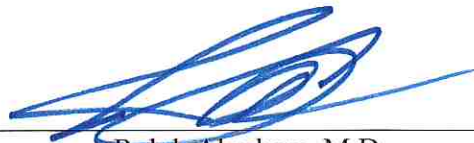
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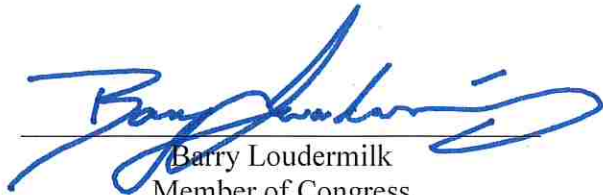
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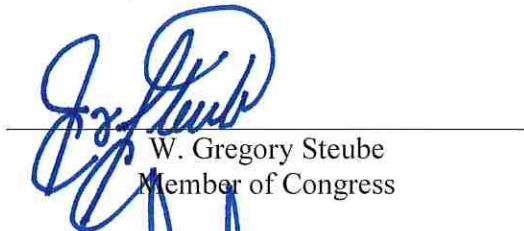
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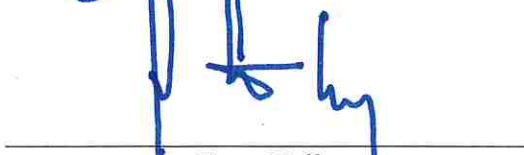
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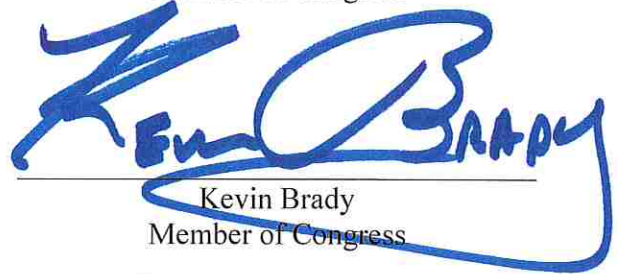
  
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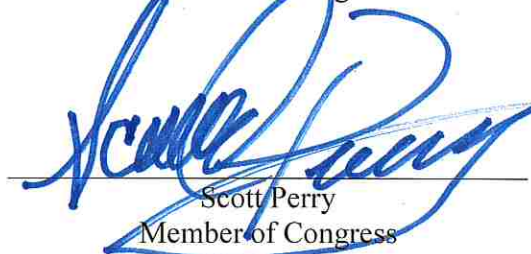
  
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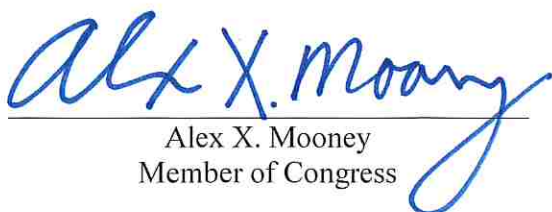
  
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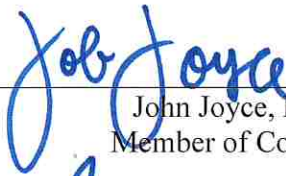
  
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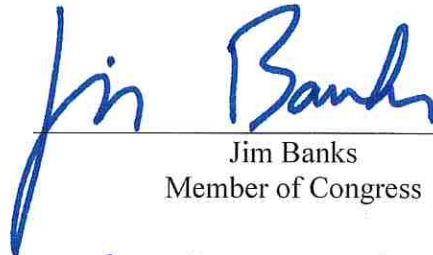
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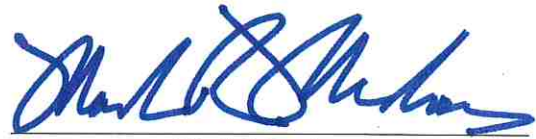
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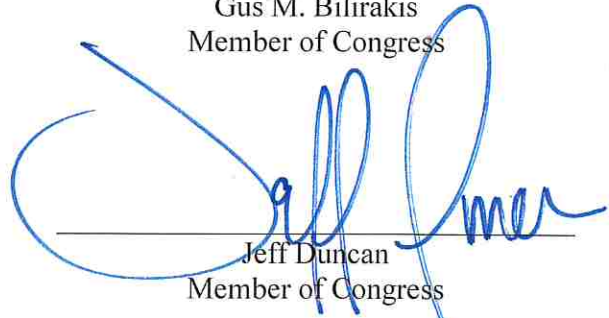
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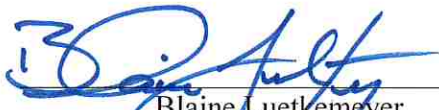
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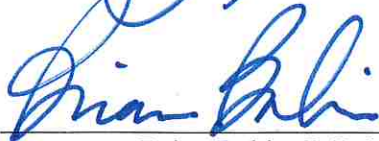
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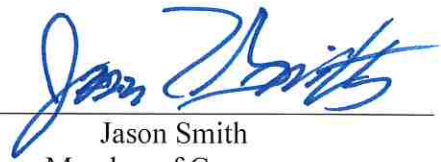
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