

August 24, 2021

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors, State Affiliates, & Chapters

FROM: National Right to Life

RE: Hyde Amendment Update

Thank you for joining us in the fight to protect the greatest domestic abortion-reduction measure ever enacted by Congress—the Hyde Amendment. Remember, our goal is to get as many members of congress contacted as possible in support of keeping the Hyde Amendment as part of the Appropriations process. (There are many educational tools on the website, <https://www.nrlc.org/the-hyde-amendment-exclusive/> that you can read, and has materials to help with your efforts in contacting House members of Congress).

Please let us know how your efforts have been going and what successes and struggles you have been having by emailing [stateod@nrlc.org](mailto:stateod@nrlc.org). We would love to assist you further if you have been running into any problems and hope you have been getting out and encouraging your people to contact their members of Congress. The following is an update on the current state of things.

While the Senate is in recess, the House has returned briefly to session to work on a few pieces of legislation. Work on appropriations (to fund the government), and the ongoing fight to save the Hyde Amendment to prevent taxpayer-funded abortion, will resume after recess in early September.

During the last week of July, the House of Representatives passed several appropriations bills that removed long-standing bipartisan riders—most notably, the Hyde amendment. The Senate has begun work on appropriations, and several more votes are expected in both chambers prior to the September 30th government funding deadline.

**It is critical to continue to contact your members of Congress** to urge them to retain Hyde and other provisions that prevent tax-payer funded abortion. Our action alert is available here: <https://cqrcengage.com/nrlc/action>

This week, the House is working on several pieces of legislation, including the bipartisan H.R. 3684 Infrastructure bill. Additionally, Congress is also working on a massive \$3.5 trillion social spending plan using the reconciliation process (51 vote threshold). To start the reconciliation process, the House and Senate must agree on a budget resolution that includes “reconciliation directives” for specified committees. On August 11, 2021, the Senate passed a budget resolution that included an amendment offered by Senator James Lankford to apply the Hyde amendment and the Weldon amendment (providing conscience protections for persons who do not want to participate in abortions). The Lankford amendment was added by a vote of 50-49, with one pro-life senator absent.

While non-binding, the effect of the Lankford Amendment is to show majority support in the Senate for the Hyde amendment as the process continues. The House of Representatives must agree to the budget resolution before the actual budget can move forward. If passed by the House, the budget resolution will unlock a massive reconciliation bill which Democrats intend to use this fall to bypass the filibuster. National Right to Life will continue to monitor the package for pro-life concerns related to healthcare provisions.

Don't forget that we have many resources and materials at [NRLC.org/Hyde](https://nrlc.org/Hyde) and stickers at [nrlchapters.org/hyde-amendment](https://nrlchapters.org/hyde-amendment). Thank you, as always, for keeping the babies in the forefront of all pro-life activities. We can, and hopefully, we will make a difference and keep the Hyde Amendment securely in place.