



New York State Catholic Conference

THE OFFICIAL PUBLIC POLICY VOICE OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN THE EMPIRE STATE

DENNIS POUST, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

July 7, 2021

Hon. Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

On behalf of Cardinal Timothy Dolan and the Catholic Bishops of New York State, I write to urge you to reject taxpayer funding of abortion, and to oppose appropriations bills that do not include the long-standing, bipartisan Hyde Amendment and related pro-life policies.

These consensus provisions have been approved year after year by Congress and Presidents of both political parties. For almost half a century, the Hyde Amendment has protected taxpayers from having abortion imposed upon them by forcing them to pay for an act that destroys unborn human lives. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the Hyde Amendment, and has said that government may reasonably favor childbirth over abortion and allocate funding accordingly (*Harris v McRae*).

Whatever one's position on the morality or legality of abortion, we all know it is unique. Indeed, the High Court has said: "Abortion is inherently different from other medical procedures, because no other procedure involves the purposeful termination of a potential life." When the federal government subsidizes certain conduct, it encourages the behavior. Through the allocation of their tax dollars, Americans should not be compelled to finance nor encourage the practice of abortion.

In his 2013 Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, Pope Francis declared: "Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenseless and innocent among us. Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this...It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life..."

I urge you to partner with us in providing support, funding, and programs to assist pregnant women facing challenging situations, and to empower them to bear their children and raise their families with dignity.

Again, I implore you to oppose any appropriations bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion.

Please know that you and your staff are in my prayers and the prayers of the Bishops as you continue your important work on behalf of our beloved country.

Respectfully,

Dennis Poust
Executive Director