



May 13, 2021

Dear Pastor/Pastoral Administrator:

For the past forty-five years, a federal policy called the Hyde Amendment has prohibited federal funding for elective abortions. This and similar provisions have enjoyed wide, bipartisan support among lawmakers and the general public. In fact, the Hyde Amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, regardless of whether Congress and the White House were controlled by Republicans or Democrats. Unfortunately, the status of these life-saving amendments are currently in jeopardy, as powerful elected officials have called for their elimination. It is critical that pro-lifers send a strong message to Congress: ***our taxpayer dollars should NOT pay for abortion.***

The Hyde Amendment and others are renewed annually in federal budget bills. For current negotiations, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops have called on American Catholics to **take widespread action in the first week of June**, by signing a petition for members of Congress in support of the Hyde Amendment and similar laws. Because of the incredibly high stakes and urgent need, the goal of public efforts is a *massive* quantity of signatures. I am writing today to ask for your assistance in promoting this initiative:

1. Take a few minutes to sign the petition yourself at [www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](http://www.NoTaxpayerAbortion.com).
2. Use the related resources—including flyers, fact sheets, and graphics at [www.respectlife.org/no-taxpayer-abortion](http://www.respectlife.org/no-taxpayer-abortion)—to **promote the campaign widely within your parish and community, by or on the first weekend of June**. Consider written, electronic, and verbal messages.
3. Visit the social media pages of Michigan Catholic Conference, which can be found through [www.micatholic.org](http://www.micatholic.org), during the first week of June to find shareable content.

In 2013, Michigan passed a grassroots-initiated, statewide policy that prevented taxpayer funding of abortion in any health plan offered on the statewide health care exchange. That success would not have been possible without the support of Catholic parishes and people of faith who gathered signatures and spoke to the need for the policy. After its passage, Michigan Catholic Conference wrote, *“Michigan will continue its strong record of protecting taxpayers from financing another person’s elective abortion...Abortion is not health care, and that fact cannot be overstated.”* Now, Catholics in Michigan are being called upon once again to protect the dignity of the human person and prevent taxpayer funding of abortion.

I thank you in advance for your parish participation. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact policy staff at (517) 372.9310. With deep appreciation for your assistance, I am

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul A. Long".

Paul A. Long  
President and CEO