



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

December 9, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-329, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
S-208, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Whip
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the Family Research Council (FRC) and the hundreds of thousands of families we represent, I urge your leadership on the inclusion of certain provisions which promote values issues in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for FY2016. While it is essential to protect provisions in current law that positively affect policy on matters of life, family, religious liberty, and other values issues, merely keeping the status quo is not sufficient in a culture, and under an Administration, that regularly attacks the values of many Americans. It is important for Congressional Leadership to ensure additional values “riders” are included in the Omnibus, many of which have already been added through regular order in either the House or Senate Appropriations Committees.

The following two riders in particular are of great immediate importance:

Abortion Nondiscrimination: Current law, through the Hyde/Weldon Amendment, prohibits discrimination against entities that refuse to perform or refer for abortions or who refuse to provide coverage of abortions; however, there is no enforceability of this measure. In California, churches are feeling the full force of the lack of enforcement, as they are being coerced into providing health insurance that covers elective chemical and surgical abortion. Pastors have sued for relief, but the Administration is refusing to admit the problem. The lack of consequence for California’s actions to date has other states poised to follow their lawless example. The Abortion Nondiscrimination Act language, included in this year’s House Labor, Health and Human Services spending bill, would give the wronged parties a private right of action, and provide quantifiable relief for them.

State Medicaid Opt-Out for Abortion Providers: Language from the *Women's Public Health and Safety Act*, passed in the House this fall, simply gives permission to states to add one more criteria by which they may decide whether or not to restrict the availability of Medicaid reimbursements for certain providers based on their involvement in abortion. As Americans learn more of the gruesome nature of abortion practices, they are alarmed by their own forced participation in funding abortion entities through taxpayer dollars. States should have the latitude to decide whether or not to allow Medicaid funding to entities that cruelly end the lives of hundreds of thousands of innocent unborn lives every year, often inflicting lasting emotional and physical scars on the mothers.

It is time for bold leadership. Republicans have already conceded to Democrats more than enough through the raising of the budget caps. Republicans should not give in any more, but rather stand firm on the inclusion of these critical though modest riders. We appreciate your dedication to including as of these provisions as possible in appropriations legislation considered by the House of Representatives and Senate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the name.

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

cc: The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations