



December 20, 2022

Senator

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Family Research Council (FRC) and the thousands of families we represent, I urge you to oppose the proposed FY23 Omnibus. As we said last week, negotiating for a massive federal spending package in the waning hours of the 117th Congress, before a Republican majority is seated in the House, presents a threat to American families. That threat is now playing out, both in the underlying text and in the earmarks included in this bill. FRC will score against cloture on the Omnibus.

While the Omnibus maintains all existing pro-life riders and several of the most problematic bills that were discussed for potential inclusion are not in the final text, this 4,155-page bill still contains harmful language that could be used to undermine life and family.

Over the past several months, we have been extremely concerned as the Biden administration has directly violated federal law by directing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facilities to provide abortions for veterans, and the Department of Defense to promote abortion travel for military personnel. The Omnibus includes report language directing the VA to upgrade medical facilities specifically to meet the needs of female veterans. One of the main issues raised by the VA regulation to allow VA facilities to perform abortions for the first time since 1992 was that VA facilities and medical personnel were ill-equipped to handle performing any abortions. This report language seems intent on making clear that VA facilities need to upgrade to be ready for an influx of abortions by female veterans

and their families. The Omnibus should not be a vehicle for the Biden administration's abortion expansion priorities.

One of the nearly 20 extraneous pieces of legislation to make it into the Omnibus is the *Prevents Pandemics Act*--a bill that, in theory, would help America prepare for any future pandemic response. However, the bill is ripe for exploitation by the abortion industry. It has sections containing several concerning grant programs that use vague, undefined terms such as "health equities," leaving the door open for Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers to gain access to taxpayer dollars. While the Omnibus only authorizes these programs and does not mandate them, even if appropriations are awarded to these programs in the future (picking up Hyde protections) they could be used by Planned Parenthood to subsidize their abortion practices. This is already happening at the state and local level. Just last week, the city of Rochester, NY set aside a \$5 million grant of federal COVID-19 relief funding for Planned Parenthood for being an "anti-violence organization." Without clear language prohibiting abortion businesses from accessing grants or ensuring that community health funding cannot be used to help clinics train and recruit abortionists, the *Prevent Pandemics Act* remains wide open to fund the abortion industry.

The Omnibus also contains language that harms the family and stands in opposition to the dignity of the human person in the area of human sexuality. There is nearly 12 million dollars in earmarks that perpetuate radical, far-Left ideology on human sexuality at home and abroad. This money will be used to further indoctrinate young, vulnerable children. It will also lead to further deterioration of families, as parents trying to protect their children find their parental rights are undermined by bureaucrats and "experts" trying to indoctrinate kids without parental involvement.

Much of the funding for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services further undermines the scientific foundation of medicine, ignores the nuance of the LGBT experience, and ostracizes those who have found happiness and wholeness outside of an LGBT identification and lifestyle.

The Omnibus advances a distracting, unnecessary, and radical transgender agenda at the expense of the single biggest group of victims of domestic violence—women, who stand to suffer because of the ideologically-driven diversion of resources under this bill toward men who identify as female.

In the midst of geo-political upheaval in various parts of the world, some funding in this bill is allocated for the U.S. Department of State to push harmful ideologies on our allies, diverting foreign policy resources and focus from where they should be (on religious freedom and human rights), and ostracizing our allies abroad at a time when we should be drawing them into our orbit.

Negotiating for a massive federal spending package in the waning hours of the 117th Congress presents a threat to American families. FRC will score against cloture on the Omnibus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Quena González', written in a cursive style.

Quena González

Senior Director of Government Affairs