Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-107
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McCarthy:

We are deeply appreciative of all the opportunities this Congress has had to vote for pro-life policies. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, the Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act, and votes to defund Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion chain are just a few examples of the Leadership's commitment to life.

As the end of the year spending bill is crafted, we respectfully ask for the inclusion of policies that will protect unborn children from the violence of abortion. In addition to retaining all existing pro-life riders (such as the Hyde amendment, Smith amendment and Helms amendment) pending House Appropriations bills contain many new and desperately needed pro-life initiatives which we encourage you to include in the end of the year package.

We ask that you give particular attention to the following three urgent matters:

- Over a year ago, the California Department of Managed Care issued a directive mandating that **all** plans under their authority immediately include coverage for abortion. Under this draconian directive, evangelical churches and Catholic charities have been forced to cover abortion in their insurance plans. This action is a clear violation of an existing federal law known as the Weldon amendment. However, the Weldon amendment as currently written can only be enforced by the Department of Health and Human Services, which has failed to provide any relief to date.

  We must enact *The Abortion Non-Discrimination Act* (ANDA, sections 4 & 5 of H.R. 940) that was included in the House Appropriations Committee-passed Labor Health and Human Services appropriations bill. ANDA establishes statutory protections similar to the Weldon amendment, but most importantly gives victims the ability to go to the courts for enforcement.

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- One of the first actions President Obama took while in office was to rescind the Mexico City Policy, which was first promulgated by President Ronald Reagan. Since the start of this Administration, at least $3.6 billion in grant money has been given to international family planning devoid of the protective pro-life Mexico City Policy. This means that this money is free to go to radically pro-abortion groups like International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF). IPPF performed nearly 1 million abortions in 2014. Additionally, the Obama Administration continues to fund the UN Population Fund, reaching a cumulative total of $224.3 million last year. Since its inception, UNFPA has supported China's coercive birth limitation policy.

  The House Committee-passed State Foreign Operations Appropriations bill reduces and caps the international family planning funding level[1], and zeros out all funding for UNFPA. These funding policies must be retained.

- In the wake of the recent scandal revealing Planned Parenthood practices of dismembering unborn children and selling their body parts, several state governments have taken steps to remove Planned Parenthood from their Medicaid program. These states now find themselves embroiled in litigation as the Administration is attempting to force them to fund Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider. On September 29, the House passed the *Women's Public Health and Safety Act* to address this issue.

  It is urgently and extremely important that the Labor Health and Human Services appropriations for FY16 include a measure to withhold funds from the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services unless they cease penalizing states that wish to remove abortion providers, like Planned Parenthood, from their Medicaid networks.

As you can see, the House Appropriations Committee has done excellent work putting forward policies that advance policies that protect the unborn and their mothers. We urge you to robustly defend and advance the inclusion of these critically important policies in the end of the year spending package. Thank you for continued commitment to these issues.

Sincerely,

CC:
The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
H-305
Washington, DC 20515

[1] During Obama's administration the funding stream for international family planning has been set at a "not less than" level, creating a minimum floor.

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Tom Cole | Steph Fund

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[illegible]

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