



ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

April 24, 2017

Representative
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Family Research Council (FRC) and the families we represent, I urge you to vote in favor of the *American Health Care Act of 2017* (H.R. 1628, "AHCA"). AHCA now provides the best path forward to re-establish the fundamental federal policy that abortion is not health care, to redirect funding away from Planned Parenthood, and to provide American families improved outcomes through lowered costs and more options. FRC will score in favor of this legislation.

AHCA for one year would eliminate over \$390 million (over 86%) of over \$450 million in annual federal funding to Planned Parenthood, from all mandatory spending programs. This is identical to the provision that in 2015 was ruled to comply with the Senate's Byrd Rule. AHCA also redirects funding to community health centers which outnumber Planned Parenthood facilities 20 to 1 and offer a wider array of health care services, but not abortion.

FRC applauds pro-life Members for reapplying to federal health care law the principle contained in the Hyde Amendment that abortion is not health care and should not be subsidized. AHCA repeals the Obamacare premium tax credits, which subsidize abortion on demand. AHCA would also eliminate the Obamacare employer and individual mandate penalties, thereby allowing employers or individuals to forgo offering or purchasing coverage if doing so violates their conscience. AHCA's Obamacare replacement components include pro-life funding restrictions with regard to tax credits, the Patient and State Stability Fund and the Federal Invisible Risk Sharing Program. We do believe that AHCA's abortion funding restrictions are budgetary and should therefore survive any Byrd Rule point of order in the Senate. If, in the unfortunate circumstance the Senate Parliamentarian were to rule that these pro-life protections violate the Byrd Rule, we will not support the bill.

Since the House bill achieves the goal of removing federal subsidies for elective abortion, defunds Planned Parenthood, and provides better health insurance solutions for families than Obamacare, FRC will score in favor of the *American Health Care Act* (H.R. 1628).

Sincerely,

David Christensen
Vice President of Government Affairs