

No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion, H.R. 7

Background

H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, would establish a permanent, government-wide prohibition on federal taxpayer funding for elective abortion, including funding for insurance plans that cover elective abortion.

Currently there is a patchwork of short-term laws that stop federal taxpayer funding for abortion, but these laws must be passed again every year as a part of the annual appropriations bills. The most well-known of these laws is the Hyde amendment. Because they must be reconsidered every year, they are vulnerable to being eliminated by a hostile Congress. These policies cover many federal funding streams, but are incomplete. For example, Obamacare is not covered and as a result Obamacare funds hundreds of health insurance plans that pay for abortion on demand.

A permanent, government-wide law against taxpayer funding for abortion is urgently needed. The House of Representatives must pass H.R. 7, but the GOP only has the narrowest of majorities. If everyone is present for the vote, only four Republicans can vote against the bill, or it will fail.

The best way to ensure the votes are there to pass H.R. 7 is to urge every Member of Congress to cosponsor the bill. Cosponsoring means they are adding their name as an official supporter of the bill. Many will not cosponsor the bill unless they hear from their own constituents.

Steps to advocate for H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act

1. Use this website to identify your Member of Congress: [Find Your Representative | house.gov](#)
2. Use a web search engine to search their name and find their government website. This site should end in .gov. It can easily be confused with their campaign website which does not end in .gov. For this advocacy to be successful, it is best to contact the official government office where constituent contact is recorded.
3. Tell the Representative's staff that you oppose federal taxpayer funding for abortion, and you want him or her to cosponsor H.R. 7, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and to urge the Republican leadership to schedule a vote on the bill.
4. To relay this message go to the "contact" page of the .gov site. From there you should find phone numbers for all of the Representative's offices and a contact form to provide an electronic message. Urge them to cosponsor H.R. 7 in one of the following ways:
 - a. Call the Washington office (see below for another way to get the phone number) and ask for the Legislative Assistant who handles pro-life or women's issues. If the Legislative Assistant takes the call, relay the message and make sure they take down your name and address. Ask them to officially respond to your request by mail.
 - b. Call one of the local offices listed and leave a message with the person who answers the phone. Be sure that they take down your name and address. Ask them to officially respond to your request by mail.
 - c. Send a personalized email through the contact form on the Representative's contact page. Note these forms will only take your message if your address is within their Congressional District.

To contact the Washington office of your Representative: call the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121. You dial the number, an operator answers, you request your Representative by name, and the operator connects you to the right office. Once you are connected to their office, you will probably speak to a legislative assistant or other staff person rather than the Representative him/herself, but it is their job to connect with constituents and pass such messages from constituents to the actual representative. If you don't know who your Representative is, the operator should be able to help you figure this out.

If you don't know who your Representative is, and would rather know before you connect with the operator, you can find out below:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative> (enter your zip code)