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## **The Biden Administration 2023 Budget targets the Hyde Amendment and other limits on taxpayers funding abortion.**

President Biden's Administration is proposing the elimination of the Hyde Amendment, along with other long-standing limits on federal taxpayer funding of abortion in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2023. The Hyde Amendment has saved at least 2.5 million babies from abortion since it became official in the 1970s, by forbidding most taxpayer dollars from funding abortions. Biden's budget repeals several pro-life amendments which prohibit taxpayer funding for abortion. This budget would also affect about a dozen pro-life funding efforts, eliminating some funds for pro-life programs and would expand taxpayer funding for other abortion and related issues. All pro-lifers, beginning with we bishops, priests and elected prolife legislators need to study each issue very carefully. As the members of the bishops of the pro-life committee activities remind us, we all need to be gravely concerned about the continued efforts to expand taxpayer funding of abortion, which would occur if the Hyde Amendment or any other lifesaving appropriations riders were to be removed from the annual appropriations bill. We take this stand because abortion, the direct killing of the unborn, is not in any sense healthcare; it is the antithesis of healthcare. Far from promoting women's health abortion often has disastrous effects on women's physical and mental health. Pope Francis has stated, "I appeal to all politicians regardless of their faith convictions, to treat the defense of the lives of those who are about to be born and enter into society as the cornerstone of the common good". And he further states, "their (unborn babies) killing in huge numbers undermines justice and compromises the proper solution of any other human and social issue". If abortion is really the preeminent life issues as we bishops say it is, then we must hold President Biden accountable for his pro-abortion extremism, calling out Biden in a proper pastoral manner, for his anti-Catholic pro-abortion policies. We bishops need to speak out and act more forcefully in defense of all human life but especially the life of the unborn child in the womb. This requires more effective dialogue and engagement with all public officials, especially Catholic public officials.

### Walking with Moms in Need and Overturn Roe v. Wade

Several months ago, the US Bishops initiated a wonderful program, Walking with Moms in Need, and countless others. This program is designed to accompany women and couples who are facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies and during the early years of parenthood offering them loving and compassionate care. Again, we bishops need to clearly state that we exhort our president and legislators, all people, to prioritize the well-being of women, children and families with both material resources and personal accompaniment so that no woman ever feels forced to choose between her future and the life of her child. We urge our president and his administration as they prepare the new budget for 2023 to only fund programs and approve policies and goals that recognize and protect the dignity and sanctity of human life in all its conditions and in all stages of development. This means we

bishops supported by all pro-lifers, need to be much more proactive in demanding that our president does not cancel the Hyde Amendment and strongly encourage congress to preserve it and reject the proposal for taxpayers to subsidize the death of unborn children. We do this because morally we can never approve a program which is gravely sinful and intrinsically evil. Taxpayer funding abortion represents a serious failure to serve women in their maternity by funding despair and death instead of hope and life.

Recently the US Catholic Bishops have initiated other programs to prepare for the hopeful overturning of the Supreme Court's decision on Roe v. Wade as Court members review the case of the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization. The bishops point out, "the need to be prepared for this decision at the national, state and diocesan level cannot be overstated". In this constant effort of encouraging the Court to overturn Roe v. Wade, the bishops especially through our Pro-life Committee propose such an effort could serve both as a source of unity and as a messaging model for parishes, dioceses and state conferences going forward. I encourage all pro-lifers to join in this pastoral initiative, as we remember the nearly half a century of legalized abortion that has destroyed 65 million precious tiny children made in the very image of God. To encourage our Supreme Court to overturn the Roe v. Wade decision as they review the Dobbs decision, I urge my brother bishops, legislators, and all pro-lifers to remind the Court members to carefully review the condition on how the Roe v. Wade decision was issued in 1973. We need to remember and take action from what the Supreme Court admitted in Roe v. Wade: "if ... personhood (for the unborn) is established the appellant case of course collapses for the fetus right to life is then guaranteed by the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment". Thank God the appellant's case has collapsed. Based on this conditional statement of some 50 years ago, science has confirmed the humanity and personhood of the unborn which reason itself affirms and has been our long biblical belief that human life begins at conception. So now the members of the Supreme Court have obligated themselves to rescind and change the decision of Roe v. Wade. The 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution states: "nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of the law, nor to deny any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the law". Never once did the Supreme Court declare abortion to be a constitutional right, as some falsely claim. The tiny unborn are persons made in God's image and must never be deprived of their life and liberty. Since science is now totally clear that human life begins at conception when a new human being is formed, so our courts and government and the American people must now oppose abortion on demand and insist that the unborn innocent life is to be protected especially when it is most defenseless. Government exists to protect God-given, inalienable rights, the first of which is the right to life. The scientific reality of the humanity of the unborn child is undisputed. For this reason, we cannot allow the proposed presidential budget to force taxpayers to fund the killing of the precious unborn.

Pope Francis said "Abortion is Murder"

Concurrent with the effort to overturn Roe v. Wade, we bishops, and all prolife leaders, especially our elected officials, must give equal importance to not allow the administration's pro-abortion budget for 2023 be enacted into law. We must be very passionate about this life and death issue for the precious unborn as Christ wants us to be. Now more than ever all of us working together, bishops and all pro-lifers as co-workers in the life vineyard of the Lord, have the means guided by the inspiration, light, and

love of the Holy Spirit to overcome the ever-increasing magnitude of abortions right in our own country and at a worldwide level. We bishops and priests, all Catholics and Catholic organizations must take a more forceful leadership in this regard and follow the lead of dear Pope Francis who is constantly calling us to have a new respect for human life at all levels, beginning with the precious unborn and he reminds us that this is the preeminent life issue. Now as we unite our efforts to encourage the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade, and to prohibit the approval of the abortion filled proposed budget of the Biden administration, and not to be approved by congress, we remember that central to both efforts is prayer which puts us in contact with the power of the Holy Spirit. Our prayer to our heavenly father through the intercession of Jesus and Mary, is expressed individually, and in our homes and publicly in our schools and churches with the offering of the mass, adoration of the blessed sacrament, and in other prayer services like the rosary, and out in the streets before abortion centers. We keep in mind other powerful and challenging words of dear Pope Francis, as recently as September 2021. Pope Francis repeatedly said that “abortion is murder” and compared the accepting of abortion to “accepting daily murder” around the world. He also spoke explicitly against treating precious human life as “waste material”. At the same time, the Pope stresses the closeness and compassion, and tenderness we need to have for all women and for both parents dealing with an abortion decision and offer them spiritual, human, and financial means to assist them with their many needs, and to encourage them to save their babies.

#### Respect all human life from conception until natural death

The magisterium of the church has always stressed the defense of the value and sacredness of human life from conception until its natural death. Therefore, the church rejects the justification of those who say, especially some politicians, “personally I believe in the immorality of abortion but favor policies that include its legislation”. This is a grave pastoral and moral contradiction. In his inspiring encyclical *Evangelium Vitae*, St. Pope John Paul II states, “this is an erroneous theory, since no circumstance, no purpose, no law can make an act lawful that is intrinsically illicit, since it is contradictory to the Law of God, which is written in every human heart, known by reason itself and proclaimed by the Church”.