



## Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

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January 14, 2019

Dear Senator:

Soon, tens of thousands of Americans from every corner of our nation will gather in Washington, D.C. to celebrate God's miraculous gift of human life from its very beginning and to urge our government to respect and protect the most fundamental human right—the right to life.

The message of the March for Life is simple, yet profound: abortion is a false and violent response to an unplanned pregnancy that turns a woman in crisis and her unborn child against each other. Women and their unborn children deserve better—they deserve solutions that empower both to have a positive future.

In that same spirit, I urge you to support and vote for the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (S. 109) introduced by Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS) and Sen. Pat Roberts (R-KS). S. 109 is modest legislation that takes an important step toward a society that promotes life and hope for unborn children and their mothers.

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act will make permanent a policy on which there has been strong popular and congressional agreement for more than 40 years: The federal government should not use its funding power to support and promote elective abortion and should not force taxpayers to subsidize this violence. In addition to having broad public support, recent analysis found that as many as two million lives have been saved as a result of restrictions on federal abortion funding.

The American people oppose taxpayer funding of abortion and want that opposition reflected in our law once and for all. Public opinion polls consistently reveal that strong majorities of women, minorities, and low-income Americans oppose taxpayer-funded abortions. This includes a majority even of those who call themselves pro-choice. Even public officials who take a pro-choice stand, and courts that have insisted on a constitutional right to abortion, have agreed that the government has every prerogative (in the Supreme Court's words) to “encourage childbirth over abortion.”

This consensus is reflected in the Hyde Amendment, and many other provisions governing a wide range of domestic and foreign programs. Yet each of these provisions governs only a particular funding stream. This patchwork of provisions, on occasion, has resulted in a gap or loophole, as was the case with the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Even collectively these various provisions did not prevent the ACA from subsidizing health plans that cover elective abortions, contrary to the policy of every other federal program.

S. 109 would end this glaring contradiction in federal law and establish a policy for future health programs, so they can be debated on their merits—instead of being marred by a divisive debate on abortion.

Please vote for S. 109 when it comes before the Senate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joseph F. Naumann". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend Joseph F. Naumann  
Archbishop of Kansas City, KS  
Chairman, Committee on Pro-Life Activities  
United States Conference of Catholic Bishops