Every election year, National Right to Life successfully educates the public on pro-life issues. In 2012, a presidential election year, National Right to Life has published a downloadable flyer titled “Where Do the Candidates Stand on Life?” in light of the Obama mandate to force employers to provide insurance that covers abortion or other services which violate their religious or moral convictions, National Right to Life has updated this publication to include information on the rights of conscience. On March 12, 2012, the Obama Administration issued a “final rule” mandating that groups, including religious schools and hospitals, provide health insurance plans that cover certain drugs or procedures, even if it violates the groups’ religious and moral convictions. National Right to Life supports the enactment of the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (S. 1467; H.R. 1797), which would generally exempt institutions or individuals from providing health coverage for services that violate their religious or moral convictions.

On March 1, 2012, the U.S. Senate voted to table (or kill) an amendment offered by pro-life Senator Roy Blunt (R-Mo.) The Blunt Amendment would prevent the Obama Administration from forcing employers to pay for services that violate their religious or moral convictions, thus restoring rights of conscience to its rightful place. The Blunt Amendment was voted down by a margin of 51-48. (See roll call page 24.)

These events created increased public interest in the positions of candidates on conscience rights. President Barack Obama’s Administration encouraged groups to reject the Blunt Amendment, referring to it as “dangerous and wrong.” According to Newt Gingrich, “There is no liberty without religious liberty.”

Ron Paul stated, “The First Amendment guaranty of religious liberty is intended to ensure that Americans never have to put the demands of the federal government above the conscience or religious beliefs. This new policy turns that guarantee on its head.”

Mitt Romney wrote, “...on day one I will eliminate the Obama Administration rule that compels religious institutions to violate the tenets of their own faith. Such rules don’t belong in the America that I believe in.” In an interview with Chris Wallace on Fox News, Rick Santorum said, “The government should not be forcing people to do things that are against their conscience, and that has always been a hallmark of our country—where rights are not taken away by government.”

The candidates listed below have announced their candidacy for president and have scored a minimum of 3% in a national poll since 06/25/11.

Barack Obama (D)
Former President, U.S. President
Voted for the Hyde Amendment and other bans on government funding of abortion.

Newt Gingrich (R)
Former Speaker, U.S. House
Voted for the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3). “Forcing taxpayers to subsidize abortion is evil and tyrannical.”

Ron Paul (R)
U.S. Congressman from Texas
I support the Hyde Amendment, which broadly bars the use of federal funds for abortions.

Mitt Romney (R)
Former Governor of Massachusetts
During my tenure...I hope, opposed, and will continue to oppose, the use of federal funds to subsidize abortion in any way.

Rick Santorum (R)
Former U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania
I would need to overrule Roe v. Wade, I think it was a poorly and horribly decided decision.

Candiates

Taxpayer Funding for Abortion

The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act would codify the Hyde Amendment—a longstanding federal funding of abortion. Over one-third of the 2012 candidates have already signed the Hyde Amendment. The White House issued a statement attacking the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 3): “If the President is presented with H.R. 3, he will veto the bill.” The groups provide health care to children. Four all oppose using your tax dollars to fund abortions. Four all oppose giving federal funds to organizations that perform abortions. Four all support that returning decisions on abortion to the states. The Obama Administration issued a “final rule” mandating that groups, including religious schools and hospitals, provide health insurance plans that cover certain drugs or procedures, even if it violates the groups’ religious and moral convictions.

When Do the Candidates Stand on Life?

The revolutionary idea contained in the Declaration of Independence is that certain inalienable human rights, including the right to life, are gifts from God and cannot be taken away by government.

End taxpayer subsidies for abortion by repealing ObamaCare, which gives Planned Parenthood, and reinstating the “Mexico City Policy,” which banned funding to organizations that perform and/or perform abortions overseas.

Vote for a bill (H.R. 2) to repeal the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ObamaCare).

Rights of Conscience

“The First Amendment guarantee of religious liberty is intended to ensure that Americans never have to put the demands of the federal government above their own conscience or religious beliefs. This [the Obama Administration’s] new policy turns that guarantee on its head.”

“No one has the right to compel religious beliefs. Such rules don’t belong in the America that I believe in.”

The government should not be forcing people to do things that are against their conscience and that has always been a hallmark of our country—where rights are not taken away by government.”

“The revolutionary idea contained in the Declaration of Independence is that certain inalienable human rights, including the right to life, are gifts from God and cannot be taken away by government.”

“We must repeal and replace the law that gives Planned Parenthood the approximate 300,000,000 tax dollars in government funding for abortion services.”

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By Karen Cross

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