

June 25, 2024

(202) 626-8820

Re: National Right to Life Urges Support for FY2025 State/Foreign Ops, DOD, and Homeland Security Appropriations

Dear Member of Congress:

The House of Representatives is expected to vote on final passage of the FY2025 Department of State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (H.R. 8771), FY2025 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 8774), and FY2025 Department of Homeland Security (H.R. 8752).

These bills retain long-standing pro-life protections and include a series of new pro-life provisions. The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) urges you to support H.R. 8771, H.R. 8774, and H.R. 8752.

FY2025 Department of State, Foreign Operations Appropriations Act (H.R. 8771)

H.R. 8771 maintains all long-standing pro-life protections, including the Helms Amendment (preventing international abortion funding), the Kemp-Kasten Amendment (prohibiting funding to programs supporting coercive abortion), the Tiahrt Amendment (ensuring voluntary family planning), the Siljander Amendment (preventing lobbying on abortion), and others.

H.R. 8771 would restore the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy. Under the Trump Administration, a policy known as the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy was in effect. This vital pro-life policy, also referred to as the Mexico City Policy, was originally adopted by President Reagan and announced at a 1984 population conference in Mexico City. The policy was reinstated by each subsequent Republican president and expanded under President Trump in 2017. This life-saving policy was abandoned by the Biden Administration.

Under PLGHA, in order to be eligible for U.S. “population assistance,” a private organization must sign a contract promising not to perform abortions (except to save the mother’s life or in cases of rape or incest), lobby to change the abortion laws of host countries, or otherwise “actively promote abortion as a method of family planning.”

The most important characteristic of PLGHA is that it establishes an eligibility criterion for U.S. funding: If a group is unwilling to agree to avoid promotion of abortion, that group will not receive any type of U.S. support. In short, the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy is not about how an organization keeps its books. Rather, it is about the type of groups the United States is going to support. If a specific organization declines to accept the policy, then the same funds are channeled to other organizations that agree to the contract. There is, therefore, no overall reduction in funding for family planning programs resulting from the policy.

FY2025 Department of Defense Appropriations Act (H.R. 8774)

Federal law (10 U.S.C. § 1093) has long prevented the Department of Defense (DOD) from using funds to perform elective abortions and prevented the DOD from using its facilities to provide abortions.

On October 20, 2022, the Biden Administration's DOD published a memorandum directing the DOD to pay the travel and transportation costs for military members and dependents to travel to obtain elective abortions.

The federal prohibition against DOD funding elective abortion clearly extends to funding for any item related to the abortion, such as travel and transportation, which has been the case for the entire life of the funding prohibition.

H.R. 8774 would prohibit funding for the October 2022 memorandum.

FY2025 Department of Homeland Security (H.R. 8752)

H.R. 8752 would prohibit funding for providing or facilitating abortions for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detainees. No funds under the bill would be used for abortion except where the "life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus would be carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest."

For the above reasons, the National Right to Life Committee urges you to support H.R. 8771, H.R. 8774, and H.R. 8752.

Should you have any questions, please contact us at (202) 626-8820, or via e-mail at jpopik@nrlc.org. Thank you for your consideration of NRLC's position on this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Carol Tobias
President



Scott Fischbach
Executive Director



Jennifer Popik, J.D.
Legislative Director