

## **180 House Members Urge Retention of Pro-Life Riders in Appropriations Bills: Letter and List of Signatories**

180 members of the House of Representatives signed a February 25, 2009 letter supporting retention of pro-life provisions traditionally included in the annual appropriations bills. These provisions – often referred to as pro-life riders – prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to promote or perform abortion, protect the consciences of health care professionals, and prevent funding for unethical human embryo experiments.

The bipartisan letter further asks that Members of Congress be given an opportunity for a full debate and an up or down vote on pro-life policies if the Appropriations Committee reports bills in which any pro-life provision is deleted.

This letter was sent to the Speaker of the House, Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D - CA), the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Rep. David Obey (D - WI), and the Chairwoman of the Rules Committee, Rep. Louise Slaughter (D - NY). The letter was sponsored by Reps: Jim Jordan (R - OH), Heath Shuler (D - NC), Bart Stupak (D - MI) and Chris Smith (R - NJ).

### **Text of the letter:**

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Chairman Obey, and Chairwoman Slaughter,

We write to you today about critical pro-life policies that may become contentious in the upcoming appropriations process. As you know, for many years pro-life measures have been added to the various appropriations bills to prevent taxpayer dollars from being used to promote or perform abortion, protect the consciences of health care professionals, and prevent funding for unethical human embryo experiments. Often referred to as pro-life riders, each year these provisions are included in legislation reported out of Appropriations subcommittees.

Some of these measures have been in place for over thirty years. The Hyde Amendment, for example, has been in effect since 1976. Enacted under a Democratic Congress, the Hyde Amendment has been renewed by administrations and congresses regardless of party control. Members of both parties have expressed strong support for these measures, which reflect the moral concerns of many Americans who do not wish to see their tax dollars used for any organization that provides abortion services.

We respectfully request that the pro-life riders be included in any legislation reported out of the Appropriations Committee. We believe that failure to include all of the current policies with regard to the right to life will mark a radical departure from a policy a majority of Americans support. If you choose to take such action, then we ask that the Rules Committee report a rule that allows for consideration of any deleted riders on the floor of the House of Representatives. The magnitude of this issue and the history associated with it require no less. If this Congress intends to rescind these riders, at a minimum the American people deserve a full debate with an up-or-down vote. Thank you for your time and consideration of our request.

### **Signatories to the letter (listed by state and district):**

#### **ALABAMA**

01 Bonner (R)  
02 Bright (D)

03 Rogers (R)  
04 Aderholt (R)

05 Griffith (D)  
06 Bachus (R)

#### **ALASKA**

AL Young (R)

**ARKANSAS**

03 Boozman (R)

**ARIZONA**02 Franks (R)  
03 Shadegg (R)  
06 Flake (R)**CALIFORNIA**02 Hergert (R)  
03 Lungren (R)  
04 McClintock (R)  
19 Radanovich (R)  
21 Nunes (R)  
22 McCarthy (R)  
24 Gallegly (R)  
40 Royce (R)  
42 Miller, G. (R)  
44 Calvert (R)  
46 Rohrabacher (R)  
48 Campbell (R)  
49 Issa (R)  
50 Bilbray (R)  
52 Hunter (R)**COLORADO**05 Lamborn (R)  
06 Coffman (R)**FLORIDA**01 Miller, J. (R)  
06 Stearns (R)  
07 Mica (R)  
09 Bilirakis (R)  
10 Young (R)  
12 Putnan (R)  
13 Buchanan (R)  
14 Mack (R)  
15 Posey (R)  
16 Rooney (R)  
18 Ros-Lehtinen (R)  
21 Diaz-Balart, L. (R)  
25 Diaz-Balart, M. (R)**GEORGIA**01 Kingston (R)  
03 Westmoreland (R)  
06 Price, T. (R)  
07 Linder (R)  
08 Marshall (D)  
09 Deal (R)  
10 Broun (R)  
11 Gingrey (R)**IOWA**04 Latham (R)  
05 King, Steve (R)**IDAHO**

02 Simpson (R)

**ILLINOIS**03 Lipinski (D)  
06 Roskam (R)12 Costello (D)  
15 Johnson, T. (R)  
16 Manzullo (R)  
18 Schock (R)  
19 Shimkus (R)**INDIANA**02 Donnelly (D)  
03 Souder (R)  
05 Burton (R)  
06 Pence (R)  
08 Ellsworth (D)**KANSAS**01 Moran (R)  
04 Tiahrt (R)**KENTUCKY**01 Whitfield (R)  
02 Guthrie (R)  
04 Davis, G. (R)  
05 Rogers, H. (R)**LOUISIANA**01 Scalise (R)  
02 Cao (R)  
03 Melaneon (D)  
04 Fleming (R)  
05 Alexander, R. (R)  
06 Cassidy (D)  
07 Boustany (R)**MARYLAND**

06 Bartlett (R)

**MICHIGAN**01 Stupak (D)  
02 Hoekstra (R)  
03 Ehlers (R)  
04 Camp (R)  
05 Kildee (D)  
06 Upton (R)  
08 Rogers, M. (R)  
10 Miller, C. (R)  
11 McCotter (R)**MINNESOTA**02 Kline (R)  
03 Paulsen (R)  
06 Bachman (R)  
07 Peterson, Collin (D)**MISSISSIPPI**01 Childers (D)  
03 Harper (R)  
04 Taylor (D)**MISSOURI**02 Akin (R)  
06 Graves (R)  
07 Blunt (R)  
08 Emerson (R)  
09 Luetkemeyer (R)**MONTANA**

AL Rehberg (R)

**NEBRASKA**01 Fortenberry (R)  
02 Terry (R)  
03 Smith, A. (R)**NEW JERSEY**02 LoBiondo (R)  
04 Smith, C. (R)  
05 Garrett (R)**NEW YORK**

03 King (R)

**NORTH CAROLINA**03 Jones, Walter (R)  
05 Foxx (R)  
06 Coble (R)  
07 McIntyre (D)  
09 Myrick (R)  
10 McHenry (R)  
11 Schuler (D)**OHIO**01 Driehaus (D)  
02 Schmidt (R)  
03 Turner (R)  
04 Jordan, J. (R)  
05 Latta (R)  
07 Austria (R)  
08 Boehner (R)  
12 Tiberi (R)**OKLAHOMA**01 Sullivan (R)  
02 Boren (D)  
03 Lucas (R)  
04 Cole (R)  
05 Fallin (R)**PENNSYLVANIA**03 Dahlkemper (D)  
04 Altmire (D)  
05 Thompson (R)  
06 Gerlach (R)  
09 Shuster (R)  
16 Pitts (R)  
17 Holden (D)  
18 Murphy, T. (R)  
19 Platts (R)**SOUTH CAROLINA**01 Brown, H. (R)  
02 Wilson, J. (R)  
03 Barrett (R)  
04 Ingliss (R)**TENNESSEE**01 Roe (R)  
02 Duncan (R)  
03 Wamp (R)04 Davis, L. (D)  
07 Blackburn (R)**TEXAS**01 Gohmert (R)  
02 Poe (R)  
03 Johnson, S. (R)  
04 Hall (R)  
05 Hensarling (R)  
06 Barton (R)  
07 Culberson (R)  
08 Brady, K. (R)  
10 McCaul (R)  
11 Conaway (R)  
12 Granger (R)  
13 Thornberry (R)  
14 Paul (R)  
19 Neugebauer (R)  
21 Smith, L. (R)  
22 Olson (R)  
24 Marchant (R)  
26 Burgess (R)  
27 Ortiz (D)  
31 Carter (R)  
32 Sessions (R)**UTAH**01 Bishop, R. (R)  
03 Chaffetz (R)**VIRGINIA**01 Wittman (R)  
04 Forbes (R)  
06 Goodlatte (R)  
07 Cantor (R)  
10 Wolf (R)**WEST VIRGINIA**

03 Rahall (D)

**WASHINGTON**04 Hastings (R)  
05 McMorris-Rodgers (R)**WISCONSIN**01 Ryan, Paul (R)  
05 Sensenbrenner (R)  
06 Petri (R)**WYOMING**

AL Lummis (R)

March 5, 2009