



September 19, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Appropriations Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Appropriations Committee
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Committee
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member Collins, Chairwoman Granger, Ranking Member DeLauro, and members of the United States House and Senate Appropriations Committees:

I am writing to you as the president of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission (ERLC). Our organization represents the public policy interests of over 45,000 churches and nearly 14 million members through their membership in the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), the largest Protestant denomination in the United States.

As Congress debates federal appropriations for fiscal year 2024, I write to convey the priorities of Southern Baptists to be considered during negotiations. **At the end of this letter, you can find a [complete list](#) of items of concern and support.**

At the outset, let me state we are grateful for the hard work exhibited by appropriators and staff in ensuring that longstanding, baseline protections such as the Hyde Amendment were preserved in both the House and Senate appropriations bills. While these riders provide essential protections for life and conscience, they alone are insufficient to prevent taxpayer dollars from going to causes and organizations that Southern Baptists find objectionable.

As Southern Baptists, we affirm the full dignity of every human being and believe that every life is worthy of protection and celebration, beginning with the preborn and extending to all of our neighbors. We believe life begins at conception, and abortion denies precious human lives both personhood and protection. Scripture is clear that every person is



made in the image of God (Gen. 1:26-7; Jer. 1:5; Psa. 139:13). As a result, we recognize the weighty call on our lives to [respond by](#) “affirm[ing] the sacredness, full dignity, and worthiness of respect and Christian love inherent to every single human being, without any reservation.”

The ERLC is committed to a vision for appropriations that values and supports life. For over 40 years, Southern Baptists have been outspoken about the reality that abortion is an injustice against both innocent preborn children and vulnerable women in crisis. This is an issue that remains of the highest importance to Southern Baptists, as we desire to see meaningful policies enacted that recognize and prioritize the value of preborn children. We are committed to opposing predatory organizations and institutions that exploit vulnerable women for profit, many of which rely on taxpayer dollars.

The ERLC is committed to conscience protection policies because they uphold two of our most deeply held convictions. First, we work to protect the consciences of our neighbors because we believe religious freedom is an inalienable human right secured as the first freedom in the Bill of Rights. Second, our pro-life ethic compels us to protect healthcare workers from the coercive power of the profit-seeking, on-demand abortion industry. Conscience protection policies in appropriations are essential for the protection of millions of American taxpayers. As the ERLC has long maintained, a government that can pave over the conscience has the unlimited ability to steamroll dissent on any issue.

The ERLC is committed to opposing harmful gender transition procedures. As radical gender ideology has permeated our society and terms such as “sex” have been expanded to include sexual orientation and gender identity, growing numbers of our fellow citizens have been wrongly convinced that they must pursue harmful, often irreversible surgeries and procedures. As stated in the 2023 SBC [Resolution](#) On Opposing Gender Transitions, we are fundamentally opposed to “gender transition” interventions and view such interventions as a futile quest to change one’s sex and as a direct assault on God’s created order. It is unconscionable that government funding would be used to perpetrate this harm to our neighbors.

As a nation, our values and priorities are most clearly displayed through the allocation of our resources. It is our desire for those resources to be used in a way that promotes life, religious liberty, and the flourishing of all our neighbors. It is in light of these core principles that we highlight the areas of concern and support below.



THE ETHICS & RELIGIOUS
LIBERTY COMMISSION
OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

As always, we are committed to praying for each of you as you navigate these complex budgetary matters and ask God to give you wisdom and discernment.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Respectfully,

Frederick Brent Leatherwood
President
Ethics & Religious Liberty Commission
of the Southern Baptist Convention



ERLC Priorities in FY24 Appropriations

Agriculture - No Concerns (House and Senate)

Areas of Support:

Sec. 742 (House and Senate)

Section 742 (House) and 737 (Senate) provide language prohibiting the FDA from approving genetic modification of human embryos.

[SEC. 742.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

Sec. 761 (House)

Section 761 nullifies recent actions from the Biden administration that weakened important safety precautions surrounding the use of mifepristone.

[SEC. 761.](#) (a) The modifications made by the Food and Drug Administration on January 3, 2023 to the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505-1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355-1) for mifepristone are hereby nullified. (b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to establish, implement, or enforce— (1) any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505-1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355-1) for mifepristone that is substantially similar to any of the modifications nullified by subsection (a); or (2) any non-enforcement or enforcement discretion policy for any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under such section for mifepristone.

Sec. 773 (House)

Section 773 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.



[SEC. 773.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. (b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to— (1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a); (2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person; (3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person; (4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or (5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and nonpublic fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person. (c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

Commerce, Justice, Science

Areas of Concern:

Sec. 204 (House and Senate)

While section 202 prohibits the use of federal funds for abortion services except in instances of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother, and section 203 helpfully protects the rights of



individuals who do not wish to participate in facilitating or performing an abortion, section 204 requires prisons to transport women to abortion clinics upon request.

[SEC. 204.](#) Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to provide escort services necessary for a female inmate to receive such service outside the Federal facility: Provided, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section 203 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

Sec. 531 (House and Senate)

Section 531 prohibits the Department of Justice from preventing certain States and territories from implementing State or territory laws regarding the use of medical marijuana.

[SEC. 531.](#) None of the funds made available under this Act to the Department of Justice may be used, with respect to any of the States of Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, and Wyoming, or with respect to the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, or Puerto Rico, to prevent any of them from implementing their own laws that authorize the use, distribution, possession, or cultivation of medical marijuana.

Areas of Support:

Section 202 (House and Senate)

Section 202 prohibits the usage of funding for abortions, with an exception where the life of the mother is endangered or when the pregnancy is due to rape or incest.

[SEC. 202.](#) None of the funds appropriated by this title shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: Provided, That should this prohibition



be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

Section 203 (House and Senate)

Section 203 prohibits the usage of funding to require an individual to perform or facilitate any abortion.

[SEC. 203.](#) None of the funds appropriated under this title shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

Section 222 (Senate)

Section 222 prohibits funding from being used to investigate or prosecute religious institutions on the basis of their religious belief.

[SEC. 222.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to investigate or prosecute religious institutions on the basis of their religious beliefs.

Section 511 (House and Senate)

Section 511 prohibits funding from being used to discriminate against the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs that receive such federal funding.

[SEC. 511.](#) None of the funds made available to the Department of Justice in this Act may be used to discriminate against or denigrate the religious or moral beliefs of students who participate in programs for which financial assistance is provided from those funds, or of the parents or legal guardians of such students.

Section 576 (House)

Section 576 prohibits the use of funding to pay the salary of an individual convicted of child pornography, sexual assault, or the use of federal resources to access or distribute child pornography.

[SEC. 576.](#) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to recruit, hire, promote, or retain any person who either has been convicted of a Federal or State child pornography charge, has been convicted of any other Federal or State sexual assault charge, or has been formally disciplined for using Federal resources to access, use, or sell child pornography.



Section 578 (House)

Section 578 prohibits the use of federal funds for sex-altering surgical procedures.

[SEC. 578.](#) None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to fund any sex-altering surgical procedures in either a Federally owned facility or a private facility leased or used by the Federal Government.

Section 579 (House)

Section 579 defunds the Department of Justice Reproductive Rights Task Force, an organization that promotes surgical and chemical abortion and monitors pro-life state legislation and actions.

[SEC. 579.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Department of Justice's Reproductive Rights Task Force.

Section 580 (House)

Section 580 prohibits funding from being used to sue a state or local government over their abortion laws or file an amicus brief.

[SEC. 580.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to sue any State or local government over their abortion laws, or to intervene or file an amicus brief in such a case.

Section 581 (House)

Section 581 prohibits the use of funding to sue any state or local government over laws related to transgender issues or file an amicus brief.

[SEC. 581.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to sue any State or local government over any law relating to transgender issues, or to intervene or file an amicus brief in such a case.

Department of Defense - No Concerns (House and Senate)

Areas of Support:

Section 8143 (House)

Section 8143 prohibits the use of DoD funding for surgical procedures or hormone therapies.



[SEC. 8143.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

Section 8144 (House)

Section 8144 prohibits the use of funding to promote, facilitate, or otherwise support events on U.S. Military installations that violate the Joint Ethics Regulation or bring discredit, specifically including drag queen story hour for children or the use of drag queens as military recruiters.

[SEC. 8144.](#) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to promote, host, facilitate, or support events on United States military installations or as part of military recruiting programs that violate the Department of Defense Joint Ethics Regulation or bring discredit upon the military, such as a drag queen story hour for children or the use of drag queens as military recruiters.

Section 8145 (House)

Section 8145 prohibits the use of funding to pay the salary of an individual convicted of child pornography, sexual assault, or the use of federal resources to access or distribute child pornography.

[SEC. 8145.](#) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used or transferred to another Federal agency, board, or commission to recruit, hire, or promote any person who has been convicted of a Federal or State child pornography charge, has been convicted of any other Federal or State sexual assault charge, or has been formally disciplined for using Federal resources to access, use, or sell child pornography.

Section 8146 (House)

Section 8146 prohibits the use of funds for paid leave or travel expenses related to obtaining an abortion. This comes in response to a Biden administration action following the *Dobbs* decision that allows for federal funds to be used by a federal employee to cover expenses related to obtaining an abortion.

[SEC. 8146.](#) None of the funds appropriated by or made available in this Act shall be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Defense memorandum dated October 20, 2022, or any successor to such memorandum, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy.



Section 8151 (House)

Section 8151 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 8151.](#) (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Energy & Water - No Concerns (House and Senate)

Areas of Support:

Section 607 (House)

Section 607 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 607.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Financial Services & General Government

Areas of Concern:

Section 713 (House) and 714 (Senate)

Section 713 (House) and Section 714 (Senate) prohibit government departments, agencies, or corporations from using funds to promote religious training for employment.



[SEC. 714.](#) (a) None of the funds made available in this or any other Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that— (4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N-915.022, dated September 2, 1988

Areas of Support:

Federal Payment for School Improvement (House and Senate)

The Federal Payment for School Improvement section excludes harmful language from the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (SOAR) that previously effectively excluded private, religious schools from participating in the program.

[For a Federal payment for a school improvement program in the District of Columbia,](#) \$52,500,000, to remain available until expended, for payments authorized under the Scholarships for Opportunity and Results Act (division C of Public Law 112-10): *Provided*, That, to the extent that funds are available for opportunity scholarships and following the priorities included in section 3006 of such Act, the Secretary of Education shall make scholarships available to students eligible under section 3013(3) of such Act (Public Law 112-10; 125 Stat. 211) including students who were not offered a scholarship during any previous school year: *Provided further*, That within funds provided for opportunity scholarships up to \$1,750,000 shall be for the activities specified in sections 3007(b) through 3007(d) of the Act and up to \$500,000 shall be for the activities specified in section 3009 of the Act.

Section 726 (House and Senate)

Section 726 provides that no funding may be used to enter or renew a prescription drug coverage contract unless the contract includes a provision for contraceptive coverage, with exemptions for carriers that object to such coverage on the basis of religious belief. Additionally provides that nothing can be construed to require coverage of abortion or abortion-related services.

[SEC. 726.](#) (a) None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to enter into or renew a contract which includes a provision providing prescription drug coverage, except where the contract also includes a provision for contraceptive coverage. (b) Nothing in this section shall apply to a contract with— (1) any of the following religious plans: (A) Personal Care’s HMO; and (B) OSF HealthPlans, Inc.; and (2) any existing or future plan, if the carrier for the plan objects to such coverage on the basis of religious



beliefs. (c) In implementing this section, any plan that enters into or renews a contract under this section may not subject any individual to discrimination on the basis that the individual refuses to prescribe or otherwise provide for contraceptives because such activities would be contrary to the individual's religious beliefs or moral convictions. (d) Nothing in this section shall be construed to require coverage of abortion or abortion-related services.

Section 613 (House and Senate)

Section 613 provides that no funds in this Act can be used to fund an abortion or administrative expenses in connection with a health plan to provide any benefits or coverage for abortion.

[SEC. 613.](#) No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion, or the administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the Federal employees health benefits program which provides any benefits or coverage for abortions.

Section 641 (House)

Section 641 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 641.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Section 808 (House and Senate)

Section 808 retains the contraceptive clause on any D.C. contraceptive requirement protecting the religious liberty and conscience rights of those who object to contraception.

[SEC. 808.](#) Nothing in this Act may be construed to prevent the Council or Mayor of the District of Columbia from addressing the issue of the provision of contraceptive



coverage by health insurance plans, but it is the intent of Congress that any legislation enacted on such issue should include a “conscience clause” which provides exceptions for religious beliefs and moral convictions.

Section 810 (House and Senate)

Section 810 prohibits the usage of federal funds by the D.C. government for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered or due to rape or incest.

[SEC. 810.](#) No funds available for obligation or expenditure by the District of Columbia government under any authority shall be expended for any abortion except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term or where the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

Section 819 (House)

Section 819 prohibits funding for D.C. to carry out the Reproductive Health Nondiscrimination Act (RHNDNA) of 2014. This bill prohibits the firing of a woman for using birth control, having an abortion, or using IVF, even if the employer does not agree with her decision because of religious convictions.

[SEC. 819.](#) None of the funds available for obligation or expenditure by the District of Columbia government under any authority may be used to carry out the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act of 2014 (D.C. Law 20-261) or to implement any rule or regulation promulgated to carry out such Act.

Section 820 (House)

Section 820 repeals D.C.’s Death with Dignity Act of 2016 law which created a “destination” for assisted suicide in the District of Columbia.

[SEC. 820.](#) (a) Section 602(a) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1 206.02(a), D.C. Official Code) is amended— (1) by striking “or” at the end of paragraph (9); (2) by striking the period at the end of paragraph (10) and inserting “; or ;” and (3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph: “(11) enact any act, resolution, rule, regulation, guidance, or other law to permit any person to carry out any activity, or to reduce the penalties imposed with respect to any activity, to which subsection (a) of section 3 of the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 14402) applies (taking into



consideration subsection (b) of such section).” (b) The Death With Dignity Act of 2016 (D.C. Law 21 182) is hereby repealed.

Section 821 (House)

Section 821 requires the District of Columbia to submit a report within 60 days of the enactment of the Act providing information regarding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

SEC. 821. (a) No later than 60 calendar days after the date of the enactment of this Act the District of Columbia shall submit a report to the Committees regarding the District of Columbia’s enforcement of the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. (b) The report submitted shall include: (1) how health care providers within the District of Columbia are alerted to their responsibility to comply with the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act; (2) how the District of Columbia responds to potential violations; (3) how many potential violations have been investigated in the District of Columbia in the past five years; (4) whether the District of Columbia preserved each child’s remains for appropriate examination during the investigation; (5) whether the District of Columbia conducted a thorough investigation of the death of each child and what each investigation showed; (6) whether the Chief Medical Examiner was directed to perform an autopsy on each child to determine the method and cause of death in accordance with section 2906 of the Establishment of the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Act of 200(sec. 5–1405 of D.C. Official Code; (7) whether the District of Columbia directed a subsequent autopsy to be completed by an independent, licensed pathologist to confirm the findings of the Chief Medical Examiner; and (8) whether the District of Columbia ensured the proper and respectful burial of each child.

Homeland Security - No Concerns (House and Senate)

Areas of Support:

Section 222 (House)

Section 222 prohibits the usage of funding for abortions, with an exception where the life of the mother is endangered or when the pregnancy is due to rape or incest.

SEC. 222. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement” may be used to pay for or facilitate an 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. (b) None of the funds appropriated or



otherwise made available by this Act for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement” may be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion

Section 223 (House)

Section 223 prevents the usage of such funding to administer hormone therapy medication or surgery for anyone in custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

[SEC. 223.](#) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to administer hormone therapy medication or perform or facilitate any surgery for any person in custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the purpose of gender-affirming care.

Section 552 (House)

Section 552 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 552.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Interior & Environment - *No concerns (House and Senate)*

Areas of Support:

Section 483 (House)

Section 483 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 483.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the



funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Labor, HHS, Education

Areas of Concern:

Family Planning (Senate)

The Senate bill includes \$286,479,000 for family planning. Though it provides that such funding may not be used for abortions and that such counseling shall be nondirective, these funds still support organizations that facilitate and perform abortions, allowing other resources to be devoted to those purposes.

[FAMILY PLANNING.](#) For carrying out the program under title X of the PHS Act to provide for voluntary family planning projects, \$286,479,000: Provided, That amounts provided to said projects under such title shall not be expended for abortions, that all pregnancy counseling shall be nondirective, and that such amounts shall not be expended for any activity (including the publication or distribution of literature) that in any way tends to promote public support or opposition to any legislative proposal or candidate for public office.

Teen Pregnancy Prevention Funding (Senate)

The Senate bill would allow funding for the Teen Pregnancy Prevention program to continue going to abortion-providing organizations

[GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT.](#) ...Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$101,000,000 shall be for making competitive contracts and grants to public and private entities to fund medically accurate and age appropriate programs that reduce teen pregnancy and for the Federal costs associated with administering and evaluating such contracts and grants, of which not more than 10 percent of the available funds shall be for training and technical assistance, evaluation, outreach, and additional program support activities, and of the remaining amount 75 percent shall be for replicating programs that have been proven effective through rigorous evaluation to reduce teenage pregnancy, behavioral risk factors underlying



teenage pregnancy, or other associated risk factors, and 25 percent shall be available for research and demonstration grants to develop, replicate, refine, and test additional models and innovative strategies for preventing teenage pregnancy: Provided further, That of the amounts provided under this heading from amounts available under section 241 of the PHS Act, \$6,800,000 shall be available to carry out evaluations (including longitudinal evaluations) of teenage pregnancy prevention approaches:

Areas of Support:

Sexual Risk Avoidance Funding (House and Senate)

Sexual Risk Avoidance Funding (SRAF) funds abstinence-based education programs for youth until they are in committed relationships. The Senate bill maintains FY23 funding levels at \$35M in funding while the House bill increases funding to \$40M to support competitive grants that implement education in sexual risk avoidance.

[GENERAL DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT](#). ...Provided further, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$35,000,000 shall be for making competitive grants which exclusively implement education in sexual risk avoidance (defined as voluntarily refraining from non-marital sexual activity): Provided further, That funding for such competitive grants for sexual risk avoidance shall use medically accurate information referenced to peer-reviewed publications by educational, scientific, governmental, or health organizations; implement an evidence-based approach integrating research findings with practical implementation that aligns with the needs and desired outcomes for the intended audience; and teach the benefits associated with self-regulation, success sequencing for poverty prevention, healthy relationships, goal setting, and resisting sexual coercion, dating violence, and other youth risk behaviors such as underage drinking or illicit drug use without normalizing teen sexual activity: Provided further, That no more than 10 percent of the funding for such competitive grants for sexual risk avoidance shall be available for technical assistance and administrative costs of such programs:...

Section 234 (Senate)

Requires the Secretary to submit to Congress a report regarding children separated from their legal guardians.

[SEC. 234](#). Not later than 14 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and monthly thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of the House



of Representatives and the Senate, and make publicly available online, a report with respect to children who were separated from their parents or legal guardians by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) (regardless of whether or not such separation was pursuant to an option selected by the children, parents, or guardians), subsequently classified as unaccompanied alien children, and transferred to the care and custody of ORR during the previous month. Each report shall contain the following information: (1) the number and ages of children so separated subsequent to apprehension at or between ports of entry, to be reported by sector where separation occurred; and (2) the documented cause of separation, as reported by DHS when each child was referred.

Section 506 (Hyde Amendment) (House and Senate)

The Hyde Amendment is an annual appropriations policy first introduced in 1976 that prevents Medicaid from covering the cost of abortion. This policy alleviates taxpayers from unwanted financial responsibility for a practice that millions of Americans find to be a grave moral wrong. Because the Hyde Amendment is attached as a “rider” to the appropriations bill, it is only applicable for the money appropriated that year and therefore must be attached to appropriations bills each year to be effective. The Hyde Amendment saves an estimated 60,000 preborn lives each year.

[SEC. 506.](#) (a) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for any abortion. (b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act, and none of the funds in any trust fund to which funds are appropriated in this Act, shall be expended for health benefits coverage that includes coverage of abortion. (c) The term “health benefits coverage” means the package of services covered by a managed care provider or organization pursuant to a contract or other arrangement.

Section 507 (Weldon Amendment) (House and Senate)

The Weldon Amendment protects the rights of conscience for healthcare professionals and institutions by preventing HHS from denying funding to recipients that refuse to provide, pay for, or refer for abortion

[SEC. 507.](#) (b) Nothing in the preceding section shall be construed as prohibiting the expenditure by a State, locality, entity, or private person of State, local, or private funds (other than a State’s or locality’s contribution of Medicaid matching funds).



Section 508 (Dickey-Wicker Amendment) (House and Senate)

The Dickey-Wicker Amendment is a longstanding rider that prohibits the use or creation of human embryos in research.

[SEC. 508.](#) (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used for— (1) the creation of a human embryo or embryos for research purposes; or (2) research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death greater than that allowed for research on fetuses in utero under 45 CFR 46.204(b) and section 498(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 289g(b)). (b) For purposes of this section, the term “human embryo or embryos” includes any organism, not protected as a human subject under 45 CFR 46 as of the date of the enactment of this Act, that is derived by fertilization, parthenogenesis, cloning, or any other means from one or more human gametes or human diploid cells.

Section 209 (House and Senate)

Section 209 prohibits the Secretary from denying participation in the Medicare Advantage program to an otherwise eligible entity based on their refusal to carry out an abortion.

[SEC. 209.](#) None of the funds appropriated by this Act (including funds appropriated to any trust fund) may be used to carry out the Medicare Advantage program if the Secretary denies participation in such program to an otherwise eligible entity (including a Provider Sponsored Organization) because the entity informs the Secretary that it will not provide, pay for, provide coverage of, or provide referrals for abortions: Provided, That the Secretary shall make appropriate prospective adjustments to the capitation payment to such an entity (based on an actuarially sound estimate of the expected costs of providing the service to such entity’s enrollees): Provided further, That nothing in this section shall be construed to change the Medicare program’s coverage for such services and a Medicare Advantage organization described in this section shall be responsible for informing enrollees where to obtain information about all Medicare covered services.

Section 239 (House)

Section 239 prohibits the use of funding to conduct/support research using human fetal tissue if such tissue is obtained via an abortion.



[SEC. 239.](#) None of the funds provided in this Act may be used to conduct or support research using human fetal tissue if such tissue is obtained pursuant to an induced abortion.

Section 240 (House)

Section 240 prohibits federal funding for organizations, such as Planned Parenthood, that provide abortions.

[SEC. 240.](#) (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this Act may be made available either directly, through a State (including through managed care contracts with a State), or through any other means, to a prohibited entity. (b) PROHIBITED ENTITY.—The term “prohibited entity” means an entity, including its affiliates, subsidiaries, successors, and clinics— (1) that, as of the date of enactment of this Act— (A) is an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code; (B) is an essential community provider described in section 156.235 of title 45, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act), that is primarily engaged in family planning services, reproductive health, and related medical care; and (C) performs, or provides any funds to any other entity that performs abortions, other than an abortion performed— (i) in the case of a pregnancy that is the result of an act of rape or incest; or (ii) in the case where a woman suffers from a physical disorder, physical injury, or physical illness that would, as certified by a physician, place the woman in danger of death unless an abortion is performed, including a life endangering physical condition caused by, or arising from, the pregnancy itself; and (2) for which the total amount of Federal grants to such entity, including grants to any affiliates, subsidiaries, or clinics of such entity, under title X of the Public Health Service Act in fiscal year 2016 exceeded \$23,000,000.

Section 246 (House)

Section 246 prohibits Title X grantees from being forced to refer for abortion. It states that no Title X grantee may be required to operate in conflict with pro-life state laws.

[SEC. 246.](#) None of the funds appropriated under this act may be used to require any project under title X of the PHS Act to refer for abortions: Provided, That no provider of services under title X of the PHS Act shall be required to subvert or operate in conflict with any State law limiting referral for abortion/pregnancy counseling.



Section 247 (House)

Section 247 allows a person, entity, or attorney general to pursue relief in court in response to discrimination against health care entities because they refuse to provide, pay for or refer for abortion.

[SEC. 247.](#) Title II of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 245 the following: “SEC. 245A. CIVIL ACTION FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS. “(a) IN GENERAL.—A qualified party may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief with regard to a designated violation. “(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section: “(1) DESIGNATED VIOLATION.—The term ‘designated violation’ means an actual or threatened violation of— “(A) section 507(d) of division H of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (or any subsequent substantially similar provision); or “(B) any funding condition imposed by the Federal Government pursuant to such section 507(d) (or such provision). “(2) QUALIFIED PARTY.—The term ‘qualified party’ means—“(A) the Attorney General of the United States; “(B) any attorney general of a State; or “(C) any person or entity adversely affected by the designated violation without regard to whether such person or entity is a health care provider. “(3) STATE GOVERNMENTAL ENTITY.—The term ‘State governmental entity’ means a State, a local government within a State, and any agency or other governmental unit or subdivision of a State, or of such a local government. “(c) ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES NOT REQUIRED.— An action under this section may be commenced, and relief may be granted, without regard to whether the party commencing the action has sought or exhausted any available administrative remedies. “(d) DEFENDANTS.—An action under this section may be maintained against a Federal agency committing a designated violation described in subsection (b)(1)(A) or any recipient or subrecipient of Federal assistance committing a designated violation described in subsection (b)(1)(B), including a State governmental entity. “(e) NATURE OF RELIEF.—In an action under this section, the court shall grant—“(1) all appropriate relief, including injunctive relief, declaratory relief, and compensatory damages to prevent the occurrence, continuance, or repetition of the designated violation and to compensate for losses resulting from the designated violation; and “(2) to a prevailing plaintiff, reasonable attorneys’ fees and litigation costs. Relief in an action under this section may include money damages even if the defendant is a governmental entity. “(f) ABROGATION OF STATE IMMUNITY.—No State or governmental official that commits a designated violation shall be immune under the Tenth Amendment to the



Constitution of the United States, the Eleventh Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, or any other source of law, from an action under subsection (a).”

Section 248 (House)

Section 248 prohibits funding for the Biden administration’s proposed rule on Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Among other things, the rule would require health care entities that participate in federal health programs to pay for or provide abortion.

[SEC. 248](#). None of the funds in this Act may be used to issue or implement as a final rule the proposed rule entitled “[Nondiscrimination in Health Programs and Activities](#)” published by the Department of Health and Human Services in the Federal Register on August 4, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 47824) (relating to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act) or any successor or substantially similar rule.

Section 536 (House)

Section 536 prohibits funding for the Biden administration’s [Executive Order 14076](#), issued on July 8, 2022. Among other things, it defined “reproductive healthcare services” as including abortion and established an Interagency Task Force on Reproductive Healthcare Access to work across agencies to identify and coordinate ways to increase and promote abortion. This provision would also prohibit funding for [Executive Order 14079](#), issued on August 3, 2022, which, among other things, directed HHS to pay for Medicaid patients to travel out of state to obtain abortions.

[SEC. 536](#). None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce Executive Order 14076 (Protecting Access to Reproductive Healthcare Services) or Executive Order 14079 (Securing Access to Reproductive and Other Healthcare Services).

Legislative Branch - No Concerns (House and Senate)

Areas of Support:

Section 212 (House)

Section 212 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.



[SEC. 212.](#) (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .

Military Construction, VA

Areas of Concern:

Section 233 (House) and 234 (Senate)

These sections allow money allocated to the “medical services” account of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to be used for dangerous in vitro fertilization (IVF) procedures and assisted reproductive technologies (ART) for veterans who are infertile due to service-related injuries. High-risk procedures like IVF and ART can result in the destruction of already-fertilized embryos, thus ending invaluable preborn lives.

[SEC. 233.](#) (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs for the “Medical Services” account may be used to provide—

- (1) fertility counseling and treatment using assisted reproductive technology to a covered veteran or the spouse of a covered veteran;

Section 250 (House) and 251 (Senate)

These sections appropriate over \$1 billion to “gender-specific” efforts to “deliver care for women veterans.” If the VA is not prevented from paying for and providing abortion, including leave and travel related to obtaining the abortion, this funding would be available for such purposes. This is an increase to FY23-enacted funding levels.

[SEC. 250.](#) Of the amounts made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, in this or any other Act, under the “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Community Care”, “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance”, and “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Facilities” accounts



\$1,279,096,000 shall be made available for gender-specific care and programmatic efforts to deliver care for women veterans.

Areas of Support:

Section 258 (House)

Section 258 prohibits the use of federal funding in this act to implement the [final rule](#) published on September 9, 2022, which expanded abortion services offered to veterans.

[SEC. 258.](#) (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or otherwise carry out the Department of Veterans Affairs interim final rule published on September 9, 2022, or any successor to such rule, or to propose, promulgate, or implement any substantially similar rule or policy. (b) None of the funds appropriated in this Act shall be expended for any abortion, including through a medical benefits package or health benefits program that includes coverage of abortion.

Section 259 (House)

Section 259 prohibits the use of federal funding for harmful gender transition practices, both surgical and hormonal.

[SEC. 259.](#) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for surgical procedures or hormone therapies for the purposes of gender affirming care.

Section 416 (House)

Section 416 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 416.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .



State-Foreign Operations

Areas of Concern:

United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) Funding (Senate)

Though the House SFOPS bill fully funds USCIRF's important work at \$4.5 million, the Senate SFOPS [bill](#) cuts USCIRF's funding by \$1 million.

United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) (Senate)

According to the Congressional Pro-Life Caucus, "the Kemp-Kasten amendment was adopted in 1985. The Kemp-Kasten Amendment restricts funds from organizations that the President determines support or participates in a coercive abortion program. Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, George W. Bush, and Donald Trump all interpreted this provision to require the elimination of funds for UNFPA." This appropriations bill increases funding for UNFPA above FY23 enacted levels.

SEC. 7057. (a) CONTRIBUTION.—Of the funds made available under the heading "International Organizations and Programs" in this Act for fiscal year 2024, \$35,100,000 shall be made available for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Funds appropriated by this Act for UNFPA, that are not made available for UNFPA because of the operation of any provision of law, shall be transferred to the "Global Health Programs" account and shall be made available for family planning, maternal, and reproductive health activities, subject to the regular notification procedures of the Committees on Appropriations.

2) UNFPA does not fund abortions.

Gender Equality (Senate)

This budget includes \$200 million in funding for the "Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund." This fund would go to support abortion as one element of "reproductive health."

[\(3\) GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY ACTION FUND.](#)—Of the funds appropriated under title III of this Act, not less than \$200,000,000 shall be made available for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund.



Section 7058 (House and Senate)

Section 7058 funds global health programs related to HIV/AIDS prevention, research, and treatment. However, \$600 million in the Senate and \$461 million in the House is set aside for family planning and reproductive health services, which includes funding for abortion providers. The Senate's provision is an increase from FY23 enacted funding levels.

[SEC. 7058.](#) (a) IN GENERAL.—Funds appropriated by titles III and IV of this Act that are made available for bilateral assistance for child survival activities or disease programs including activities relating to research on, and the prevention, treatment and control of, HIV/AIDS may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law except for provisions under the heading “Global Health Programs” and the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (117 Stat. 711; 22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.), as amended: *Provided*, That of the funds appropriated under title III of this Act, not less than \$600,000,000 should be made available for family planning/reproductive health, including in areas where population growth threatens biodiversity or endangered species.

Areas of Support:

Helms and Biden Amendments (House and Senate)

Both the House and Senate SFOPS bills retain important language preventing foreign aid from directly paying for abortion as a method of family planning.

[SEC. 7018.](#) None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for the performance of abortions as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for the performance of involuntary sterilization as a method of family planning or to coerce or provide any financial incentive to any person to undergo sterilizations. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be used to pay for any biomedical research which relates in whole or in part, to methods of, or the performance of, abortions or involuntary sterilization as a means of family planning. None of the funds made available to carry out part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, as amended, may be obligated or expended for any country or organization if the President certifies that the use of these funds by any such country or organization



would violate any of the above provisions related to abortions and involuntary sterilizations.

Global Health Programs (House and Senate)

Under the heading Global Health Programs, prohibits the usage of this act for programs that support or participate in coercive abortions or involuntary sterilization. It retains the important Siljander, Kemp-Kasten, and Tiahrt Amendment provisions.

...Provided further, That none of the funds made available in this Act nor any unobligated balances from prior appropriations Acts may be made available to any organization or program which, as determined by the President of the United States, supports or participates in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization: ...

... Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to pay for the performance of abortion as a method of family planning or to motivate or coerce any person to practice abortions:...

...Provided further, That nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to alter any existing statutory prohibitions against abortion under section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961: ...

... Provided further, That none of the funds made available under this Act may be used to lobby for or against abortion:...

... Provided further, That in order to reduce reliance on abortion in developing nations, funds shall be available only to voluntary family planning projects which offer, either directly or through referral to, or information about access to, a broad range of family planning methods and services, and that any such voluntary family planning project shall meet the following requirements: (1) service providers or referral agents in the project shall not implement or be subject to quotas, or other numerical targets, of total number of births, number of family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning (this provision shall not be construed to include the use of quantitative estimates or indicators for budgeting and planning purposes); (2) the project shall not include payment of incentives, bribes, gratuities, or financial reward to: (A) an individual in exchange for becoming a family planning acceptor; or (B) program personnel for achieving a numerical target or quota of total number of births, number of



family planning acceptors, or acceptors of a particular method of family planning; (3) the project shall not deny any right or benefit, including the right of access to participate in any program of general welfare or the right of access to health care, as a consequence of any individual's decision not to accept family planning services; (4) the project shall provide family planning acceptors comprehensible information on the health benefits and risks of the method chosen, including those conditions that might render the use of the method inadvisable and those adverse side effects known to be consequent to the use of the method; and (5) the project shall ensure that experimental contraceptive drugs and devices and medical procedures are provided only in the context of a scientific study in which participants are advised of potential risks and benefits; and, not less than 60 days after the date on which the USAID Administrator determines that there has been a violation of the requirements contained in paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (5) of this provision, or a pattern or practice of violations of the requirements contained in paragraph (4) of this proviso, the Administrator shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report containing a description of such violation and the corrective action taken by the Agency...

...Provided further, That in awarding grants for natural family planning under section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 no applicant shall be discriminated against because of such applicant's religious or conscientious commitment to offer only natural family planning; and, additionally, all such applicants shall comply with the requirements of the previous provision

Section 7033 (House)

Section 7033 provides \$50 million in funding for the Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State, under the heading "Diplomatic Programs." Such funds are intended for humanitarian assistance for vulnerable and persecuted ethnic and religious minorities.

SEC. 7033. (a) INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM OFFICE.—Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading "Diplomatic Programs" shall be made available for the Office of International Religious Freedom, Department of State. (b) ASSISTANCE.—(1) Of the funds appropriated by this Act under the headings "Economic Support Fund", "Democracy Fund", and "International Broadcasting Operations", not less than \$50,000,000 shall be made available for international religious freedom programs: Provided, That funds made available by this Act under the headings "Economic Support Fund" and "Democracy Fund" pursuant to this section shall be the



responsibility of the Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom, in consultation with other relevant United States Government officials, and shall be subject to prior consultation with the Committees on Appropriations. (2) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “International Disaster Assistance” and “Migration and Refugee Assistance” shall be made available for humanitarian assistance for vulnerable and persecuted ethnic and religious minorities (c) AUTHORITY.—Funds appropriated by this Act and prior Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under the heading “Economic Support Fund” may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law for assistance for ethnic and religious minorities in Iraq and Syria. (d) DESIGNATION OF NON-STATE ACTORS.—Section 7033(e) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2017 (division 4 J of Public Law 115–31) shall continue in effect during fiscal year 2024.

Peace Corps (House and Senate)

Both the House and Senate bills retain important, longstanding language that prohibits funding for the Peace Corps from being used for abortions except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother.

...Provided further, That none of the funds appropriated under this heading shall be used to pay for abortions...

Section 7059 (House)

Section 7059 prohibits the usage of federal funding in this Act for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund, which funds abortion providers, and instead funds programs to promote the empowerment of women.

SEC. 7059. (f) PROHIBITION.—None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be made available for the Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund.

Section 7070 (House)

Section 7070 prohibits the usage of funds provided in this Act for funding performing or promoting gender-transition surgeries and services.

SEC. 7070. (e) None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be used or transferred to another Federal Agency, board, or commission to fund any



domestic or international non-governmental organization or any other program, organization, or association coordinated or operated by such non-governmental organization that either offers counseling regarding sex change surgeries, promotes sex change surgeries for any reason as an option, conducts or subsidizes sex change surgeries, promotes the use of medications or other substances to halt the onset of puberty or sexual development of minors, or otherwise promotes transgenderism.

Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy (House)

The House SFOPS report reinstates the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy as expanded under President Trump. This policy requires foreign nongovernmental organizations to agree not to perform or promote abortions as a precondition of their receipt of US grant money.

[Report Page 5](#). The Committee expands and strengthens additional requirements, including by applying the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance policy, which prohibits funds for foreign nongovernmental organizations that promote or perform abortions.

Lautenberg Amendment (Senate)

This long standing rider provides an important pathway to resettlement for historically persecuted religious minorities from the former Soviet Union and Iran. Those persecuted include a number of Ukrainian, Russian, and Iranian evangelicals.

CATEGORICAL ELIGIBILITY.—The Foreign 22 Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1990 (Public Law 101– 24 167) is amended— (A) in section 599D (8 U.S.C. 1157 note)— (i) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “and 2023” and inserting “2023, and 2024”; and (ii) in subsection (e), by striking “2023” each place it appears and inserting “2024”; and (B) in section 599E(b)(2) (8 U.S.C. 1255 note), by striking “2023” and inserting “2024”.

Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development

Areas of Concern:

Section 404 (House and Senate)

This section would prohibit any funds going to employee training that contains religious or quasi-religious belief systems or is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal



values or lifestyle outside the workplace. This could prohibit faith-based grant receiving organizations from receiving funding.

SEC. 404. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be obligated or expended for any employee training that— (4) contains any methods or content associated with religious or quasi-religious belief systems or “new age” belief systems as defined in Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Notice N– 915.022, dated September 2, 1988; or (5) is offensive to, or designed to change, participants’ personal values or lifestyle outside the workplace.

Areas of Support:

Section 431 (House)

Section 431 prohibits appropriations from being used to take discriminatory action against a person due to speech or acts related to religious beliefs surrounding the definition of marriage between one man and one woman.

[SEC. 431.](#) (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman. . .