

Congress of the United States

Washington, D.C. 20515

December 5, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

As you consider final legislation for FY12, we urge you to set aside any riders that could harm the health of American women. Whether the House proceeds with “minibus” appropriations bills, an omnibus bill, or additional continuing resolutions, none of these bills nor any conference agreements should include policies or funding cuts that jeopardize women’s well-being.

Since the 112th Congress began, too much of the legislative calendar has been consumed with attacks on women’s health rather than the American people’s desire for jobs and a solution to this recession. We cannot allow brinksmanship to substitute for sound policy judgment again this year.

Already, provisions that threaten women’s health have illogically been added to vital appropriations legislation. The House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs has passed an appropriations bill that reinstates the Global Gag Rule and eliminates funding for the United Nations Population Fund, threatening the well-being of millions of women around the world. The House Appropriations Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee enacted legislation prohibiting the District of Columbia from using its own funds to cover abortion services for low-income women in DC. Additionally, the chair of the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee proposed a radical bill that would ban Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funding for preventive care, eliminate the Title X family planning program, which provides crucial family planning and reproductive health services to more than five million people annually at 4,500 community health clinics, and could eliminate abortion coverage from plans sold through health insurance exchanges. Even the House Agricultural Appropriations bill contains unnecessary abortion-related language.

Further, Speaker Boehner has vowed that the House will codify the “Hyde Amendment,” which would permanently ban coverage for a full range of reproductive healthcare for millions of low-income women, and could be an attempt to put into permanent law abortion-coverage restrictions for federal employees, women in the military, and others.

Last month, Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew sent both Appropriations Committees a letter clearly articulating the fate of any budget bill that includes ideological policy riders:

The Administration urges Congress to pass final appropriations, without ideological or political provisions, to fund the Government for the remainder of the fiscal year.

If the President is presented with a bill that undermines critical domestic priorities or national security through funding levels or language restrictions, contains earmarks, or fails to make the tough choices to cut where needed while maintaining what we need to spur long-term job creation and win the future, the President will veto the bill.

Moreover, 182 Members of Congress called on the majority in early November to take partisan policy riders out of the appropriations bills, underscoring broad opposition to ideological attacks in must-pass legislation. Included in their letter was an appeal to set aside any new restrictions on women's access to comprehensive health services.

The American people will not tolerate further budget posturing. We urge you to reject any attacks on women's health in the final FY'12 appropriations legislation.

Sincerely,

Jon Schukowsky

Mike Quigley

Louise M. Slaughter

Barack Obama

Joel Pelt

Matt Schneider

William R. Keating

John Lewis

Pete Stark

Jodi Spain

Donis O. Matsui

Delly Wass Schell

Michael Mittard

Richard

Rail M. Fujawa

Paul Blumenauer

Laura Richardson

Chell R

Amy Kim

Zoe Lofgren

Ron Kind

Sam Farr

Leonard L. Bass

Yvette D. Clarke

Alex Cohen

John Lomax

Bob Flier

Wanda Hinds

Janice Hahn

Eleanor Holmes Norton

Jim Moran

Paul Shen

Rubin Hinojosa

Lynn Woolsey

Charles Rangel

Butterfield

Linda J. Surr

Lois Capps

BEAN 6/8/83

Tommy Baldwin

Flowers

Duffy Moore

Barbara Lee

Joe Baw

Jewell Nadler

Blam Smith

Carole M. Maloney

Luelle Royal Allard

Judy Ann

Jim M^cDevitt

Ti Bn

Bill Owens

L. M. M.

Hyd Dought

Shelley Berkeley

Ad A Brady

J. M. Li

Hayd A. Brown

Eliot L. Engel

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Al Green

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Grace J. Napoletano

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J. M. Ny

John
Donald E. Connolly

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ONE Zshoo

Bruce Braley

By C. F. Peto

Steve Lusk

Emuel Lee

Peter Welch

Russ Holt

Ed Ball

B. Ball

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Joetta Sanchez

Red DeLoach

Keith Ellison

Donna F. Edwards

Frank Pallone Jr.

Joseph P. ...

Shirley ...

Edward J. Markey

Alice ...

Cardyn McCarthy

Melinda Watt

Steven A. Rothman

Melanie Waters

Gary ...

Hansen Clarke

Mazie Hirono

CC: Rep. C.W. Bill Young, Chairman, Defense Subcommittee
Rep. Rodney Frelinghuysen, Chairman, Energy and Water Subcommittee
Rep. Peter Visclosky, Ranking Member, Energy and Water Subcommittee
Rep. Jo Ann Emerson, Chairwoman, Financial Services Subcommittee
Rep. José Serrano, Ranking Member, Financial Services Subcommittee
Rep. Robert Aderholt, Chairman, Homeland Security Subcommittee
Rep. David Price, Ranking Member, Homeland Security Subcommittee
Rep. Michael Simpson, Chairman, Interior and Environment Subcommittee
Rep. James Moran, Ranking Member, Interior and Environment Subcommittee
Rep. Denny Rehberg, Chairman, Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee
Rep. Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member, Labor, HHS, and Education Subcommittee
Rep. Ander Crenshaw, Chairman, Legislative Branch Subcommittee
Rep. Michael Honda, Ranking Member, Legislative Branch Subcommittee
Rep. John Culberson, Chairman, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs Subcommittee
Rep. Sanford Bishop, Ranking Member, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs
Subcommittee
Rep. Kay Granger, Chairwoman, State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee
Rep. Nita Lowey, Ranking Member, State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee