

February 18, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker of the House
1233 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Scalise

House Majority Leader
266 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Emmer

House Majority Whip
326 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lisa McClain

Chair, House Republican Conference
562 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Hern

Chair, Republican Policy Committee
171 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3601

Dear Speaker Johnson and Members of House Republican Leadership,

In 2025, Congress exercised its constitutional authority and fiscal responsibility by passing a budget reconciliation bill that included a one-year prohibition on federal funding for disqualified abortionists, such as Planned Parenthood, from being eligible to receive Medicaid dollars. The bill was signed into law by President Trump on July 4, 2025. Congress's passage of that reconciliation legislation marked the first major new pro-life funding reform in over two decades. A victory for taxpayers, unborn children, and families across the nation. That decision reflected longstanding federal policy and the clear will of the American people that taxpayer dollars should not subsidize the abortion industry.

This action was consistent with decades of congressional precedent. Congress has long sought to separate abortion funding from federal spending, and the 2025 reconciliation bill reaffirmed that Americans should not be forced to subsidize abortion through federal programs.

However, the defunding provision enacted in 2025 was explicitly limited to a one-year duration and remains the only major portion of that reconciliation package set to expire this year. Without further congressional action, federal funding for the abortion industry will resume after July 4, 2026, and taxpayer dollars will once again flow to organizations whose core business model relies on abortion.

Congress's funding decisions have also reflected longstanding concerns that many of the nation's largest abortion businesses engage in activities that extend beyond traditional healthcare services. These include:

- Providing and promoting abortion as a core organizational activity, while lobbying for nationwide abortion until birth.
- Offering or referring for gender transition interventions, including puberty blockers and cross-sex hormones, particularly for minors.
- Delivering sex education programs that promote inappropriate content to minors while denying parents meaningful transparency and oversight into what their children are being taught.

Since the enactment of the 2025 reconciliation law, multiple abortion businesses have already closed facilities or scaled back operations, demonstrating the measurable impact of the defunding provision. Allowing the policy to lapse would not only reverse these gains but would also restore federal funding streams that Congress deliberately chose to restrict.

We write as a coalition urging House Republican leadership to immediately initiate the 2026 budget reconciliation process and include provisions to extend and solidify the defunding of Big Abortion industry for the maximum duration permitted under reconciliation rules. Under current statutory budget reconciliation limitations, this means enacting a ten-year prohibition on federal funding no later than July 4, 2026. As the nation approaches the 250th anniversary of American independence, Congress has an obligation to ensure that federal spending reflects fiscal discipline, accountability, and respect for life.

The financial stakes are significant. Planned Parenthood alone receives nearly \$800 million annually in taxpayer funding, primarily through federal health programs. Ending this funding would represent one of the most meaningful pro-taxpayer reforms Congress can enact. At a time of historic federal debt and growing budgetary pressure, continuing to subsidize the abortion industry is neither fiscally responsible nor defensible.

For decades, Congress has recognized that abortion is fundamentally different from other medical services and should not be supported with public funds. The Hyde Amendment and related policies reflect this longstanding understanding. The 2025 reconciliation law built directly upon that bipartisan federal funding framework. Allowing the current defunding provision to expire would undo the meaningful progress achieved this past year.

Budget reconciliation remains the appropriate and proven legislative vehicle to achieve this objective. The precedent established in 2025 confirms that defunding provisions fall squarely within reconciliation's fiscal and policy scope. Extending the prohibition for the maximum ten-year window permitted under reconciliation rules would provide long-term policy stability, protect taxpayers, and prevent future administrations from restoring funding through executive action alone.

As the United States prepares to mark 250 years of independence, Congress faces a clear choice. It can further the work it began in 2025, or it can allow hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars to once again flow to Big Abortion businesses.

We respectfully urge House Republican leadership to act without delay and make the defunding of Big Abortion business a central component of the 2026 budget reconciliation package.

For life,

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Founder and President
Live Action

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
SBA Pro-Life America

Carol Tobias
President
National Right to Life

Tiffany Justice
Executive Vice President
Heritage Action

Jennie Bradley Lichter
President
March for Life Action

Tony Perkins
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John Mize
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Kristen Waggoner
President & Chief Executive Officer
Alliance Defending Freedom

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Family Policy Alliance

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