



April 2, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives

The Honorable John Thune  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, and House and Senate Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to share our critical priorities for supporting American families as you consider a reconciliation package for 2026.

Established in 1971, Americans United for Life (AUL) is a national law and policy nonprofit organization with a specialization in abortion, end-of-life issues, and bioethics law. AUL publishes pro-life model legislation and policy guides, tracks state bioethics legislation, and regularly testifies on pro-life legislation in Congress and the states. Our vision at AUL is to strive for a world where everyone is welcomed in life and protected in law.

We respectfully request that, in a 2026 reconciliation package, the House and Senate strengthen our nation by supporting America's women, children, and families by including policies to:

- (1) continue the prohibition of funding facilities that perform elective abortions;
- (2) support pregnancy centers through a tax credit for charitable donations; and
- (3) provide immediate economic support to parents at the time of birth.

The Supreme Court's historic *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision cleared the way for Congress to enact greater protections for millions of unborn children and their mothers.<sup>1</sup> As a pro-life organization that has long advocated for such a decision, we understand that the work of upholding the sanctity and dignity of life is far from over. Many mothers and families face significant health and financial challenges throughout pregnancy

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<sup>1</sup> 142 S. Ct. 2228 (2022).

and into the early years of raising a child. We can, and should, consider how to encourage our nation to do more to provide for their needs.

Parents from all walks of life are keenly aware of the financial challenges associated with raising a child. In 2025, the estimated cost of raising a child through the age of 17 was anywhere from \$240,000 to over \$500,000.<sup>2</sup> According to a 2025 poll, even though the U.S. birth rate continues to fall, averaging at 1.6 births per woman, more than 40% of Americans consistently say that the ideal family size includes three or more children.<sup>3</sup> In other words, many Americans desire to have more children than they end up having. The impact of rising costs may be a contributing factor to this gap. When the New York Times asked American adults in 2018 why they are having less children than their ideal number, a majority said childcare was too expensive, with around 44 percent simply saying they cannot afford more children.<sup>4</sup> Inflation has only exacerbated these challenges, leaving many parents in a daunting position, even as they courageously prepare to welcome a new child into the world. Supporting life means advocating for mothers, children, and families through policies and resources designed to promote the flourishing of American families.

As such, AUL reiterates our support for the expansion of pro-life and pro-family policies. AUL requests that the House and Senate consider the following policy priorities for a 2026 reconciliation package:

### **1) Continue to Prohibit Funding to Elective Abortion Providers**

To help American families thrive, taxpayer funding should never be directed to organizations that intentionally terminate the life of a human being in the womb. Although the first reconciliation package—the “One Big Beautiful Bill”—prohibited Medicaid dollars from going to abortion businesses, the prohibition is only for one year—set to expire on America’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday, July 4, 2026. Additionally, abortion providers still receive hundreds of millions of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars through indirect subsidization.

Public funding for elective abortion providers contradicts everything that Congress has clearly agreed to for nearly 50 years since the Hyde Amendment was first passed. These life-ending organizations continue to receive hundreds of millions of federal dollars despite a primary focus on elective abortions. AUL’s groundbreaking publication, *Unsafe*,<sup>5</sup> a 50-state investigative report, details the conditions of America’s perilous abortion industry. Even the

<sup>2</sup> See Maryalene LaPonsie, *This is How Much it Costs to Raise a Child in 2025*, U.S. News (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://money.usnews.com/money/personal-finance/articles/how-much-does-it-cost-to-raise-a-child>.

<sup>3</sup> Megan Brenan, *Americans’ Ideal Family Size Remains Above Two Children*, Gallup (Sept. 4, 2025), [https://news.gallup.com/poll/694640/americans-ideal-family-size-remains-above-two-children.aspx?utm\\_source=alert&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=morelink&utm\\_campaign=syndication](https://news.gallup.com/poll/694640/americans-ideal-family-size-remains-above-two-children.aspx?utm_source=alert&utm_medium=email&utm_content=morelink&utm_campaign=syndication).

<sup>4</sup> Claire Cain Miller, *Americans Are Having Fewer Babies. They Told Us Why*, N.Y. TIME (July 5, 2018), <https://nytimes.com/2018/07/05/upshot/americans-are-having-fewer-babies-they-told-us-why.html# 5>  
Data and Statistics on Stillbirth, CDC (May 15, 2024), <https://www.cdc.gov/stillbirth/dataresearch/index.html>.

<sup>5</sup> *Unsafe: America’s Abortion Industry Endangers Women*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE (2021), <https://aul.org/wpcontent/uploads/2021/02/AUL-Unsafe-2021.pdf>.

New York Times has cataloged reasons why Planned Parenthood, for example, should not receive federal funding: “The health care provider of last resort... Patients report failed abortions, misplaced IUDs and inadequately trained staff.”<sup>6</sup>

## 2) Include a Tax Credit for Pregnancy Resource Centers

In addition to assisting mothers and fathers directly, it is critical to establish and surround parents with a supportive community. Pregnancy Centers (PCs) are nonprofit organizations that have helped vulnerable women and men facing unplanned pregnancies since the late 1960’s. These centers were founded to provide pregnancy-related resources and life-affirming support at a time when states were pushing to legalize abortion. Today, there are nearly 3,000 PCs across the country offering a variety of services, typically at no cost to their clients, including:

- Pregnancy tests,
- Ultrasounds,
- STI and STD testing,
- Material assistance such as diapers and baby clothes,
- Referrals for additional medical care and community resources,
- Educational classes, including sexual risk avoidance and parenting skills,
- Options counseling,
- After-abortion recovery care and support, and
- Fatherhood programs.

PCs are run by dedicated staff and volunteers. According to a Charlotte Lozier Institute report,<sup>7</sup> eight out of ten workers in 2019 were volunteers, including more than 6,400 medically licensed professionals. PCs and their workers are a critical lifeline for women who want to carry their babies to term instead of pursuing abortion, including women who are pressured into abortion or face difficult circumstances.

Millions of clients receive assistance at PCs on an annual basis. A 2025 report, *Pregnancy Centers: Rising to the Occasion with Unwavering Care*, contains national survey data on pregnancy center services.<sup>8</sup> The report found that, in 2024 alone, PCs had close to four million client sessions, with an estimated total value of services and material goods of

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<sup>6</sup> Katie Benner, *Botched Care and Tired Staff: Planned Parenthood in Crisis*, N.Y. TIMES (Feb. 15, 2025), <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/15/us/planned-parenthood-clinics.html>.

<sup>7</sup> *Pregnancy Centers Stand the Test of Time*, CHARLOTTE LOZIER INST. (2020), [https://lozierinstitute.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/01/Pregnancy-Center-Report-2020\\_FINAL.pdf](https://lozierinstitute.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/01/Pregnancy-Center-Report-2020_FINAL.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> Charlotte Lozier Institute et al., *Pregnancy Centers: Rising to the Occasion with Unwavering Care* (2025), <https://lozierinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/A-Legacy-of-Life-Love-2025-Rising-to-the-Occasion-with-Unwavering-Care.pdf>

\$452,475,801.<sup>9</sup> These numbers are astounding because most of these services are available at no cost to clients and speak to the dedication of the PC staff, volunteers, and donors.

Many PCs run on shoestring budgets based on the charitable contributions of the communities around them. A tax credit could encourage these communities to continue to walk alongside PCs and help them significantly increase the valuable impact they offer their clients. An effective tax credit should:

- At a minimum, equal 50% of contributions made to Pregnancy Centers during a taxable year, and
- Include an upper limit that is at least \$5,000 per year or \$10,000 for joint filers. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith's 2024 Pregnancy Center Support Act is a good framework in addition to AUL's Community Support for Pregnancy Centers Act.<sup>10</sup>

### **3) Provide Immediate Economic Support to Parents at the Time of Birth**

Finally, there is nothing more pro-family than helping alleviate the costs associated with welcoming a new child into the world. That includes assuaging the periods of postpartum expenses, forgone income, and physical recovery for new mothers. If we want to help Americans defray the cost of becoming parents, we should financially support them, and through reconciliation, Republicans can lead the way. Some members have attempted to alleviate the financial burdens that many American families face when expecting a child through legislation. For example, Senator Hyde-Smith introduced the Supporting Healthy Moms and Babies Act in 2025, which prevents cost-sharing for prenatal, childbirth, neonatal, perinatal, and postpartum health care. In this same vein, this reconciliation package provides an opportunity to provide immediate financial support to parents that are growing their families.

Ultimately, a 2026 reconciliation package needs to include vital enhancements to tax credits related to PCs, immediate economic support for parents welcoming children, as well as the continued revocation of funding to the dangerous and life-ending abortion industry. Your support of these provisions and any further enhancements to uplift American children and families is invaluable. AUL stands ready and willing to assist in developing a more pro-life and pro-family tax system.

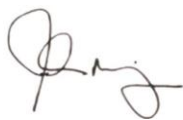
Thank you for your consideration of our request and your hard work defending life at all stages, from conception to natural death.

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<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> *Community Support for Pregnancy Centers Act: Model Legislation & Policy Guide*, AMS. UNITED FOR LIFE, <https://aul.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/Community-Support-for-Pregnancy-Centers-Act.pdf> (last visited Apr. 1, 2026).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Mize', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Mize  
Chief Executive Officer  
Americans United for Life