

September 15, 2016

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
H-329, The Capitol
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
S-208, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Steve Scalise
Majority Whip
H-329, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

We, the undersigned representing millions of Americans, strongly support the inclusion of new provisions, which promote values issues in the upcoming appropriations bills for FY2017. While it is essential to protect provisions in current law that positively affect policy on matters of life, family, religious liberty, and other values issues, merely keeping the status quo is not sufficient in a culture, and under an Administration, that regularly attacks the values of the people we represent. The undersigned organizations may not take a position on each specific provision, but we agree that fighting for policy riders is an important trust building measure between the American people and Washington. Thus, it is important for the House and Senate to act to ensure additional values “riders” are included in the upcoming appropriations bills.

Of particular importance are riders that provide conscience protections for individuals, employers, schools, and businesses, allowing them to live and work according to their orthodox moral or religious beliefs. These provisions underline the basic American value of the free exercise of religion, which the government is constitutionally forbidden from prohibiting. Additionally, some of the provisions strengthen current conscience protections by adding private rights of action and curbing the government’s ability to ignore its own laws as it relates to, for example, abortion.

Ensuring these provisions are addressed is essential to many individuals and organizations that support the specific provisions listed below. Each of the undersigned organizations strongly agree now is the time for bold leadership and the inclusion of additional values provisions in the appropriations bills. We appreciate your dedication to including as many of these provisions as possible in appropriations legislation considered by the House of Representatives and Senate.

Sincerely,

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Tom McClusky
Vice President
March for Life Action

Mathew D. Staver, Esq.
Founder and Chairman
Liberty Counsel

Paul Weber
President & CEO
Family Policy Alliance

Michael A. Needham
Chief Executive Officer
Heritage Action for America

Dr. Ron Crews
CH (COL) USAR Retired
Executive Director, Chaplain Alliance for
Religious Liberty

Valerie Huber
President/CEO
Ascend

David Stevens, MD, MA (Ethics)
CEO
Christian Medical Association

Lisa Correnti
Executive Vice President
C-Fam

Thomas J. Cathey, EdD
Director for Legal Legislative Issues
Association of Christian Schools
International

C. Preston Noell III
President
Tradition, Family, Property, Inc.

Bob Vander Plaats
President/CEO
The FAMILY LEADER
Urbandale, Iowa

John Helmberger
Chief Executive Officer
Minnesota Family Council

Dale Bartscher
Executive Director
Family Heritage Alliance Action

Julaine K. Appling
President
Wisconsin Family Action

Eva Andrade
President
Hawaii Family Forum

Thomas J. Shaheen
Vice President for Policy
Pennsylvania Family Council

David Fowler
President
Family Action of Tennessee, Inc.

Carroll Conley
Executive Director
Christian Civic League of Maine

Karen Bowling
Executive Director
Nebraska Family Alliance

Cathi Herrod
President
Center for Arizona Policy

Joe Ortwerth
Executive Director
Missouri Family Policy Council

Allen Whitt
President
Family Policy Council & Family Policy
Institute of West Virginia

Debbie Chaves
Executive Director
Colorado Family Action

Phil Burress
President
Citizens for Community Values Action

Gene Mills
President
Louisiana Family Forum

Julie Lynde
Executive Director
Cornerstone Family Council (Idaho)

Len Deo
President
New Jersey Family Policy Council

Rico McCahon
Executive Director
Cornerstone-Action (New Hampshire)

Jonathan Keller
CEO
California Family Council

Oran P. Smith, PhD
President
Palmetto Family Alliance
Columbia, SC

Curt Smith
President
Indiana Family Institute

cc: The Honorable Hal Rogers, Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Thad Cochran, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Appropriations

VALUES PROVISIONS FOR THE FY2017 APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Provisions to be added to FY2017 Appropriations Bill to:

- Prevent the implementation of a requirement that women register for the draft;
- Ensure funds are not expended to implement the expansion of Title IX's non-discrimination to include situations where sex is defined as including sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy termination, or anything other than biological sex;
- Prevents the withholding of federal financial assistance from educational institutions that do not comply with the Obama administration's expansion of Title IX;
- Eliminate elective abortion coverage in the Multi-State Plan Program;
- Prohibit abortion funding for immigration detainees;
- Limit funding of in vitro fertilization to that which does not result in the discarding or destruction of embryos before transfer;
- Codify the Hyde-Weldon language that ensures the government does not discriminate against health care entities that refuse to provide, cover, or refer for abortions, and provides them legal recourse;
- Provide conscience protections for those who object to the HHS contraception mandate on moral or religious grounds, and provide them legal recourse;
- Provide for protections from government discrimination against persons who maintain belief in natural marriage;
- Provide religious freedom protections for organizations that contract with the federal government;
- Prevent the IRS from using funds to withdraw the tax exempt status of 501(c)(3) organizations that engage in political campaign activity during the regular course of the entity's activities with merely de minimis costs;
- Prevent the implementation of the D.C. Council's Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Act;
- Prevent the implementation of the D.C. Council's Human Rights Amendment Act;
- Reassert congressional control over the budget of the District of Columbia;
- Ensure funds are not used to maintain or establish computer networks that do not block the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography;
- Prevent the federal government from coercing state involvement in Common Core;
- Increase funding for sexual risk avoidance education;
- Restore the Mexico City policy that prohibits funding of non-U.S., non-governmental family planning organizations, if they provide abortion services;
- Defund the United Nations Population Fund and cap international family planning spending;
- Prevent the federal government from discriminating against individuals and entities in programs, grants, contracts, IRS treatment, and the like because of their belief that marriage is the union of one man and one woman;

- Redirect funds from Planned Parenthood to federally qualified health centers;
- Amend Medicaid laws to allow states to block funds for abortion providers; and,
- Prevent funding the implementation of the President's anticipated lifting of the ban on transgendered persons serving in the military.

Provisions to be Stricken from the FY2017 Appropriations Bill to:

- Fund in vitro fertilization for veterans who have lost use of a creative organ without effective protections for embryos (Senate);
- Codify President Obama's Executive Order forcing federal contractors to hire LGBT persons (House); and,
- Codify a repeal of the Mexico City Policy and increase funding to the U.N. Population Fund and family planning and contraception abroad (Senate).