



## CONGRESSIONAL PRO-LIFE CAUCUS

# The Medicare for All Act of 2019

HR 1384

**Groups Opposed:** *National Right to Life, Susan B. Anthony List, March for Life, Family Research Council, Concerned Women for America*

### LEGISLATIVE BACKGROUND

[H.R. 1384](#) was introduced on February 28, 2019, by Reps. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA) and Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and has over 100 Democratic cosponsors. Its Senate companion, [S.1129](#), was introduced by Sen. Bernie Sanders on April 10, 2019.

The bill states that it would establish a Medicare for All national health insurance program.

### MEDICARE FOR ALL AND ABORTION

H.R. 1384 undermines the long-standing Hyde Amendment, which protects taxpayer funding from paying for abortion or insurance plans that cover abortion. It has historically been added by bipartisan agreement to LHHS appropriations bills since the mid-1970s. HR 1384 would ensure taxpayer-funded elective abortions for women and would eliminate previous laws that prevent federal healthcare spending from directly paying for abortions:

- The bill explicitly provides for federal funding of abortion: *"Individuals enrolled for benefits under this Act are entitled to have payment made by the Secretary to an eligible provider for...comprehensive reproductive, maternity, and newborn care"*
- The bill declares that the Hyde Amendment shall not apply: *"Any other provision of law in effect on the date of enactment of this Act restricting the use of Federal funds for any reproductive health service shall not apply to monies in the Trust Fund"*

In response to an [op-ed](#) and [tweet](#) from Whip Steve Scalise (R-LA), Senator Sanders, the sponsor of Medicare for All in the Senate, admitted that the bill removes Hyde protections:



**Bernie Sanders**   
@BernieSanders

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Medicare for All doesn't dictate private health care decisions. That's what Republicans are doing by taking away a woman's right to control her body.

Medicare for All will provide comprehensive reproductive coverage, including abortions, so that everyone gets the care they need.

**Steve Scalise**   
@SteveScalise

There's a deeply disturbing truth Americans need to know about the Democrats' radical Medicare-for-All scheme: it would mandate taxpayer-funded abortions on demand and force doctors and nurses to terminate a baby's life...

8:32 AM - 22 May 2019

### TALKING POINTS

- The Hyde Amendment is the major protection against taxpayer dollars being used to fund abortions through programs like Medicaid and has been in effect for 40 years.
- **Polling Consistently Shows Public Support for Prohibiting Taxpayer Funding for Abortion:** A Marist poll released [January 2019](#) found that 54% of Americans oppose taxpayer funding of abortion. This finding is consistent with past poll results, including polls in [2018](#), [2017](#), [2016](#), and [2014](#)
- **The Hyde Amendment saves lives**
  - Before the enactment of the Hyde Amendment in 1976, the federal Medicaid program was paying for [nearly 300,000](#) abortions annually.
  - Recent [analysis](#) by the Charlotte Lozier Institute (CLI) found that at least 2 million Americans are alive today because of the Hyde Amendment. CLI estimates that [one in every nine people](#) born to a mother on Medicaid is alive because of the Hyde amendment.
  - Even the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute [acknowledges](#) the Hyde Amendment's impact on reducing abortion, because a portion of Medicaid eligible women who may otherwise choose abortion choose life when the government does not incentivize abortion.
- The Hyde Amendment does not prohibit state funded or privately funded abortions; it simply prevents HHS from using federal taxpayer dollars to fund abortion or insurance plans that include abortion.
- **Abortion is NOT healthcare.** Abortion is a brutal procedure that ends the lives of unborn children through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. Late abortions inflict excruciating pain and suffering on the child. This human rights abuse should not be paid for or encouraged by the U.S. government.
- **Women and children both deserve better than abortion. Our nation should invest in women's health, not abortion.** Post-abortive women, like the women in the "[Silent No More Awareness Campaign](#)," are courageously speaking up about the extraordinary harm they have endured from abortion. As the NGO Feminists for Life have reminded us, women deserve better than abortion.

## FURTHER READING

DeSanctis, Alexandra. "[Medicare for All Would Mandate Coverage for All Abortions](#)." *National Review*. March 22, 2019.

"[Reps. Scalise, Walden: The truth about 'Medicare for all' – Plan would make you pay for abortions](#)" *Fox News* op-ed. May 21, 2019.