

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 23, 2016

Chairman John Carter
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter,

As you draft the Fiscal Year 2017 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include the following pro-life limitation as bill text:

SEC. XXX. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall be available to pay for an abortion, except where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term, or in the case of rape or incest: Provided, That should this prohibition be declared unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, this section shall be null and void.

SEC. XXX+1. None of the funds appropriated by this Act for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shall be used to require any person to perform, or facilitate in any way the performance of, any abortion.

SEC. XXX+2. Nothing in the preceding section shall remove the obligation of the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to provide escort services necessary for a female detainee to receive such service outside the detention facility: Provided, That nothing in this section in any way diminishes the effect of section XXX+1 intended to address the philosophical beliefs of individual employees of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

As you may know, a very similar policy exists in the Commerce, Justice, Science (CJS) appropriations bill. The CJS policy governed the predecessor agency to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency when the prior program was funded through the CJS appropriations bill. In an apparent oversight, this policy was not carried over to the Homeland Security Appropriations bill.

ICE has put out a manual on "Detention Standards" that tracks closely with the policy above. However, the manual lacks basis in law, which means that it could be changed at any time, and is vulnerable to a legal challenge. Adding this language to the Homeland Security appropriations legislation should be noncontroversial since the policy previously governed the program and is consistent with the current administration's policy.

Thank you for your consideration to this important life-affirming policy.

Sincerely,



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



John Moolenaar
Member of Congress



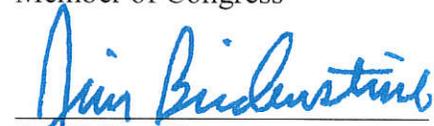
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Member of Congress



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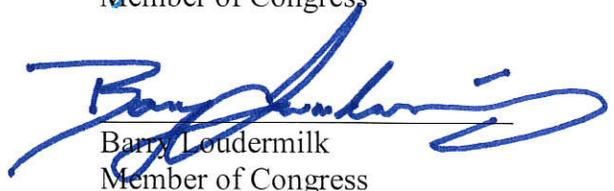
Bruce Westerman
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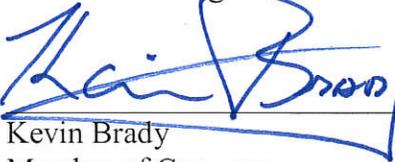
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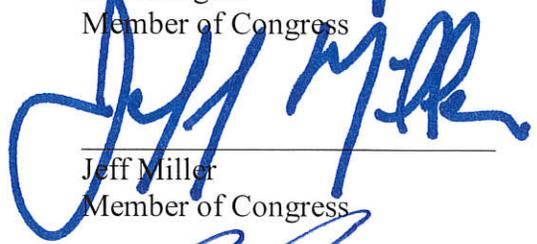
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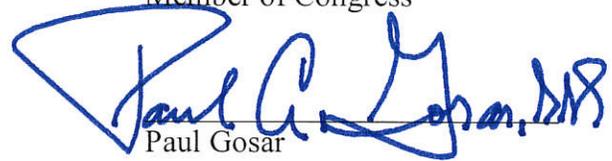
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



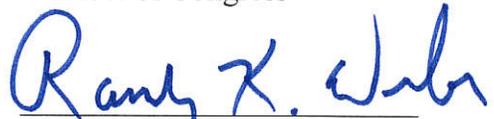
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