



January 23, 2017

The Honorable Christopher Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

On behalf of the 124,900 members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), I wish to raise concerns with provisions included in the *“No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2017”* (H.R. 7).

Section 303 of H.R. 7 seeks to place limitations on the scope of permissible services that may be provided at federal facilities and further define what services may be provided by a physician who is employed by the Federal Government.

The AAFP is concerned that certain provisions of H.R. 7 represent legislative interference into the patient-physician relationship and are unnecessary due to the current application of the Hyde Amendment and other applicable laws and regulations. Furthermore, we are deeply concerned that this legislation accelerates recent trends whereby legislators at all levels of government have attempted to dictate the nature and content of patients’ interactions with their physicians and other health care providers.

The AAFP and our members will continue to express concern with efforts by policymakers to dictate or unduly influence, through legislation and regulation, the practice of medicine. These efforts, in our opinion, are outside the traditional bounds of the role of policymakers, are direct intrusions into the practice of evidence-based medicine and infringe upon the patient-physician relationship.

We urge caution against legislation that seeks to erect barriers between patients and their ability to secure legal medical services and/or procedures that have been proven safe and effective. We also urge you to always be mindful and respectful of the important relationship between a patient and their physician. This relationship is strengthened in an environment of honesty and transparency and should be unencumbered by any legislative and/or regulatory interference except in matters

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clearly related to overall public health. For more information, please contact Sonya Clay, Government Relations Representative, at 202-232-9033 or sclay@aafp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Meigs, Jr.", with a small "MD" written below the end of the signature.

John Meigs, Jr., MD
President

C: The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steve Scalise

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Steny Hoyer