

## **ACTION ALERT: SUPPORT “NO TAXPAYER FUNDING OF ABORTION ACT”**

**Action Requested: Call U.S. Representatives (not Senators) asking them to support and co-sponsor the “No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.”** Contact members of the U.S. House through e-mail, phone calls, FAX or in person. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or their local offices. Full contact information can be found at [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov). Remember to speak as individuals, not as members of Catholic Daughters. Encourage friends and family members to write or call, too.

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**Message:** “Please support and cosponsor H.R. 5939. This bill will ensure that taxpayer dollars are not used to pay for elective abortions in any federal program.”

**Background:** For many years Congress has refused to allow federal tax dollars to pay for elective abortions. The health care bill violates this policy. To ensure that no tax dollars will ever pay for abortion, Reps. Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) introduced the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act (H.R. 5939). The bill already has 167 co-sponsors, enjoying strong bipartisan support. The complete list of sponsors can be found here: [thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR05939:@@P](http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d111:HR05939:@@P).

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The act ensures that no funds will be used for abortion in health care plans or as a method of family planning overseas. The act also adds a permanent conscience clause to protect health care workers from being forced to participate in abortions.

When introducing H.R. 5939, Rep. Smith stated, “This legislation would establish a comprehensive policy prohibiting public funding for elective abortion in all federal programs.” Rep. Lipinski added, “Protecting the sanctity of life, and preserving the individual’s freedom not to be complicit in any way in abortion, is a matter of principle for me and tens of millions of Americans.”

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In an August 20 letter to the House of Representatives, Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged Representatives to support and co-sponsor H.R. 5939. “While Congress’s policy [on restricting funding for abortion] has been remarkably consistent for decades, implementation of that policy in practice has been piecemeal and sometimes sadly inadequate.”

The Cardinal cited the recently passed health care reform law as an example of why H.R. 5939 is needed. That law “contains at least three different policies on federal funding of abortion—none of which is consistent with the Hyde Amendment . . . or with similar longstanding provisions that govern all other health programs.” See his entire letter: [usccb.org/prolife/DiNardo-HR5939.pdf](http://usccb.org/prolife/DiNardo-HR5939.pdf).

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Approved: Joanne Tomassi, National Regent