

ACTION ALERT: SUPPORT THREE NEW PRO-LIFE BILLS

TO: State and Territorial Court Regents and Legislative Chairs

FROM: Mary Ann Rowe, Interim National Legislative Chair, Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Date: January 29, 2011

Action Requested: Contact members of the House and Senate through e-mail, phone calls or FAX. Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, or call the local offices of your Congressman and Senators. Full contact information can be found at www.house.gov and www.senate.gov.

Message: Support the NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT (H. R. 3), the PROTECT LIFE ACT (H.R.358) and THE ABORTION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (H.R. 361) which were introduced in Congress last week and which are scheduled for a vote near term.

Background: The U. S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has urged the members of the House and Senate to fully support each of the above pro-life bills which are pending a vote.

1. **H.R. 3 THE NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT** sponsored by Representatives Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) will accomplish two important things: First, it will enact the provisions of the Hyde Amendment concerning federal funding of abortion into permanent law. Secondly, this bill will also enact into permanent law the conscience rights protections of the Hyde Weldon amendment for all avenues of federal funding.

2. **H.R. 358 THE PROTECT LIFE ACT** sponsored by Representatives Joseph Pitts (R-PA) and Dan Lipinski (D-IL) will apply longstanding federal policies on abortion funding, and conscience rights on abortion, to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

3. **H.R. 361 THE ABORTION NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT** sponsored by Representatives John Fleming (R-LA) and Dan Boren (D-OK) will enact the policies of the Hyde/Weldon Amendment into permanent law, by amending the section of the U.S. Code that prevents governmental discrimination against OB/GYN residency programs that do not provide abortion training (42 USC 238n). A version of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act was passed by the House in 2002 but was not considered by the Senate. This version would incorporate a private right of action for health care providers to file suit against a discriminating government entity.

The U. S. Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) officially supports passage of these three bills. Letters by Cardinal DiNardo, Chairman of the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urging Members to support and co-sponsor H.R.358 and H. R. 361 can be found at: www.nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/HR358_USCCB.pdf and www.nchla.org/datasource/idocuments/HR361_USCCB.pdf. A letter supporting H.R. 3 will be issued shortly.

Reminder: Make contact as a private citizen using your name and address-not as a member of Catholic Daughters.

Approved: Joanne Tomassi, National Regent