

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Ander Crenshaw
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Crenshaw,

We write to request language in the upcoming Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2017 to ensure that elective abortions are not covered by insurance plans provided under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act's (ACA) (P.L. 111-148) Multi-State Plan Program. Similar language has been included each year since 2012.

As you know, a multi-state plan is a private health insurance plan that is offered through a state exchange under contract between an insurance company and the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM). Pursuant to the ACA, OPM is required to establish a network of these plans with at least two plans offered on every state exchange by 2017. To date, thirty-two states and the District of Columbia already offer multi-state plans, which like the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program (FEHBP), are administered by the Healthcare & Insurance division of OPM.

Although these multi-state plans are intended to be similar to the FEHBP, they are not covered by the Smith Amendment, which has prohibited elective abortion funding in the FEHBP since 1983. As such, to maintain a consistent pro-life policy to abortion funding in government-run health insurance programs, we respectfully request that you include the following language in this year's funding bill:

Sec. xxx. No funds appropriated by this Act shall be available to pay for an abortion, or the administrative expenses in connection with any health plan under the Multi-State Plan Program which provides any benefits or coverage for abortions.

Sec. xxx+1. The provision of section xxx shall not apply where the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus was carried to term, or the pregnancy is the result of an act of rape or incest.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your commitment to protecting these important life-affirming policies.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress



ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler

VICKY HARTZLER
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski

JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress

Phil Roe

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RALPH ABRAHAM, MD
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EARL L. 'BUDDY' CARTER
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JOHN RATCLIFFE
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Todd Young

TODD YOUNG
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DANA ROHRABACHER
Member of Congress



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Member of Congress



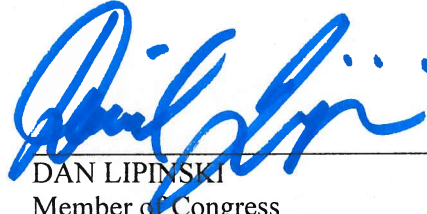
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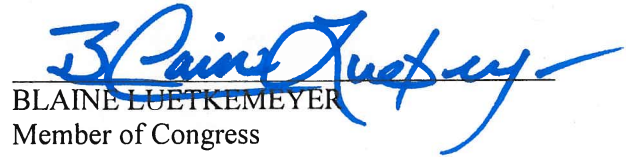
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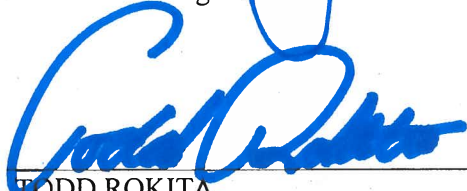
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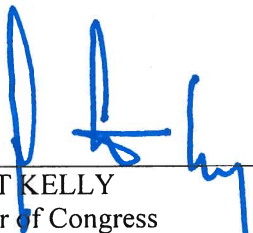
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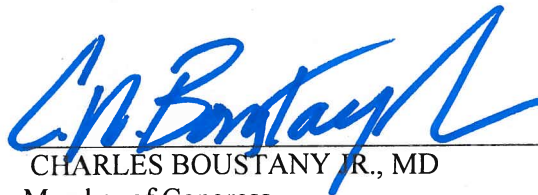
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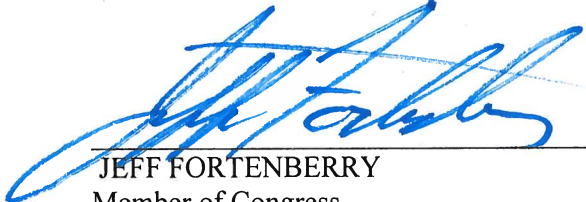
RANDY NEUGEBAUER
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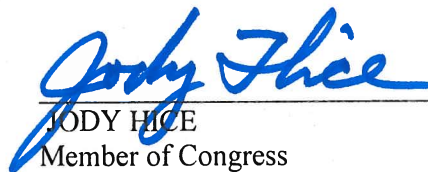
TRENT KELLY
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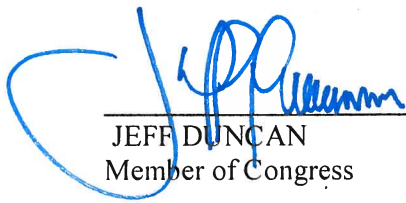
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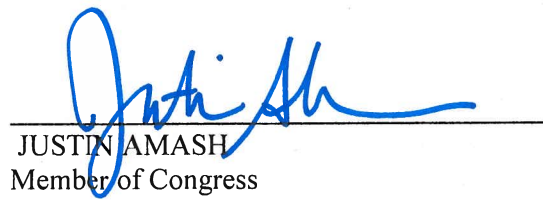
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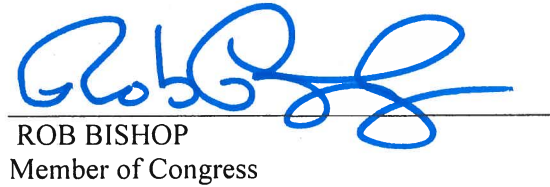
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ROB BISHOP
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GLENN 'GT' THOMPSON
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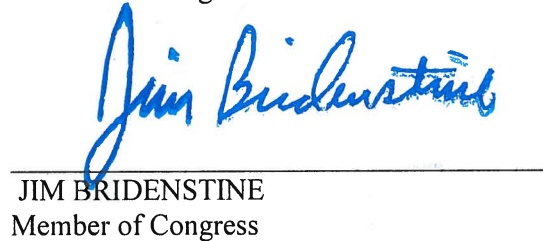
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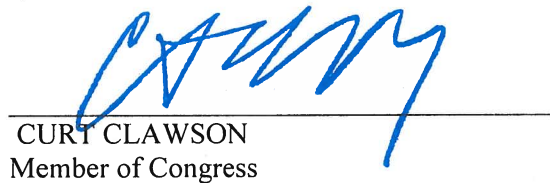
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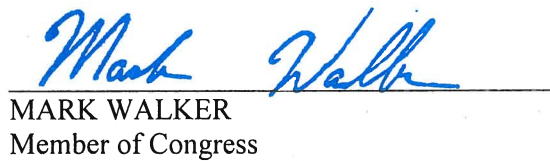
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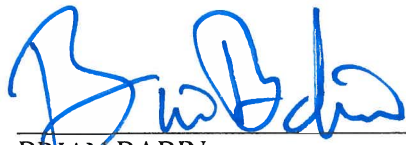
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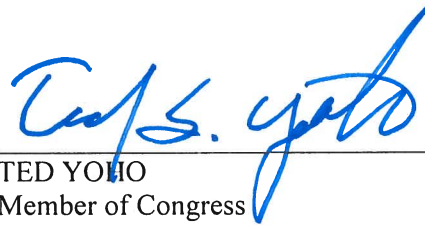
MARK WALKER
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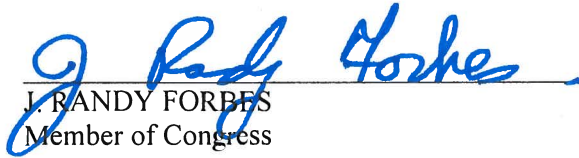
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