



## ADVANCING FAITH, FAMILY AND FREEDOM

September 14, 2017

Senator  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the Family Research Council (FRC) and the families we represent, I urge you to support the FY17 reconciliation legislation sponsored by Sens. Lindsey Graham (R-SC) and Bill Cassidy (R-LA), to be offered as an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 1628, the *American Health Care Act of 2017*. FRC supports the Graham-Cassidy legislation because it repeals and replaces Obamacare in a way that reapplies to federal health care law the principle contained in the Hyde Amendment that abortion is not health care and should not be subsidized, removes taxpayer funding from certain abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, allows states to opt-out of burdensome regulations, and provides better state-based health insurance solutions for families than Obamacare. FRC supports and reserves the right to score in favor of this amendment.

The Graham-Cassidy legislation would stop Obamacare's taxpayer funding of abortion starting in 2020 by repealing its advanceable refundable premium tax credits, small business premium tax credits, and the cost-sharing reduction payments, all of which currently subsidize health care plans that cover abortion on demand. This legislation would repeal Obamacare's individual and employer mandate penalties. Moreover, while it keeps many of the law's taxes, it repeals much of the law's spending, and redirects those funds to the states in the form of block grants. States would be allowed to use their block grants to create innovative state-specific programs to provide health insurance.

Since these block grant funds to states would be housed within the Child Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which has Hyde-like protections in current law, States would not be allowed to use their block grant money to subsidize elective abortion or health care plans that include coverage of elective abortion. Due to these Hyde-like protections, the legislation would make pro-life health care plans available in states that currently mandate abortion in health insurance coverage, such as California, New York, and Oregon, since these states would effectively have to change their pro-abortion insurance laws and regulations to be able to use their block grants.

The Graham-Cassidy legislation would also provide states flexibility by allowing them to obtain waivers that exempt health insurance plans that receive block grant subsidies from Obamacare's burdensome regulations. The Graham-Cassidy legislation would also defund certain abortion providers like Planned Parenthood for one year from all mandatory spending programs like Medicaid, CHIP, and the new state block grants.

Again, since the Graham-Cassidy FY17 reconciliation legislation, to be offered as an amendment to H.R. 1628, achieves pro-life goals in health care policy and provides a better state-based health insurance solutions for families than Obamacare, FRC supports and reserves the right to score in favor of this amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Christensen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "D".

David Christensen,  
Vice-President for Government Affairs