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December 14, 2017

RE: Scorecard advisory on Alexander-Murray and Collins-Nelson proposals

Dear Member of Congress:

The National Right to Life Committee (NRLC), the federation of state right-to-life organizations, urges you to oppose the *Bipartisan Health Care Stabilization Act of 2017* (Alexander-Murray) sponsored by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Patty Murray as well as the *Lower Premiums Through Reinsurance Act of 2017* (Collins-Nelson), sponsored by Sens. Susan Collins and Bill Nelson because they lack Hyde-like protections.

NRLC will include votes related to Alexander-Murray and Collins-Nelson, including any appropriations measure, in our scorecard of key right-to-life votes of the 115th Congress.

The Alexander-Murray proposal would appropriate over 20 billion dollars in cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments to be distributed to insurers, and these payments do not include Hyde-like restrictions. If enacted, the Alexander-Murray CSR payments can be expected to underwrite an estimated one thousand Obamacare plans that cover abortion on demand. Additionally, the Collins-Nelson proposal would amend Obamacare to provide nearly 5 billion taxpayer dollars to subsidize abortion on demand through reinsurance.

We urge that both proposals be amended to include language to reflect the long-standing pro-life policy of the Hyde amendment.

Prior to the enactment of Obamacare, there was a nearly uniform policy that federal programs did not pay for abortion or subsidize health plans that included coverage of elective abortion. By design, Obamacare sharply deviated from this longstanding policy. The law itself explicitly authorized massive federal subsidies to assist many millions of Americans to purchase private health plans that will cover abortion on demand, in states that fail to pass laws to limit abortion coverage.

We strongly urge Congress not to continue this unprotected appropriation of money to prop up plans that cover abortion. NRLC respectfully urges you to vote to reject the Alexander-Murray and Collins-Nelson proposals unless they are amended to exclude payments to cover abortion on demand.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carol Tobias in blue ink.

Carol Tobias
President

Handwritten signature of David N. O'Steen in blue ink.

David N. O'Steen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Handwritten signature of Jennifer Popik in blue ink.

Jennifer Popik, J.D.
Legislative Director