



## ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF SYRACUSE

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

240 E. ONONDAGA STREET, SYRACUSE, NY 13202-2608

July 2, 2021

Dear Diocesan Family,

I am writing to seeking your urgent help. President Biden has included many proposals in his national budget that seek to protect vulnerable people. However, the president and some Members of Congress are also trying to take away the Hyde Amendment, without which, billions of taxpayer dollars could be used to pay for abortion.

When our government offers a woman a free abortion instead of the resources she needs to care for her baby, it is not “choice,” but undue pressure in a vulnerable moment. Taxpayer dollars would be far better spent supporting women in crisis pregnancies and struggling new mothers so that no woman ever feels economic pressure to have an abortion.

It is critically important for Catholics to send a strong message to Congress now, before it moves forward to impose taxpayer-funded abortion. The USCCB has launched a campaign for Catholics to raise their voices on behalf of women. The goal is for millions of Catholics to sign the petition on [NoTaxpayerAbortion.com](http://NoTaxpayerAbortion.com) by July 16th.

For 45 years, the Hyde amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortion. The Hyde amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, whether the Congress and the White House were led by Republicans or Democrats. It is my hope and prayer that this practice will be continued.

With the assurance of my continued prayers for all, I remain

In the Name of Jesus,

Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia  
Bishop of Syracuse

*Faith • Hope • Charity*