



Diocese of Austin

6225 Highway 290 East · Austin, TX 78723
(512) 949-2415 · Fax (512) 949-2521
www.austindiocese.org

Office of the Bishop

May 6, 2021

Dear Brother Priests:

Today, I write in regard to the Hyde Amendment, which, since 1980, has ensured that federal funds not be used to pay for abortions. This legislative provision is credited with saving the lives of over **2.4 million children** to date.

Currently, influential members of Congress are seeking to repeal this law that both Democrats and Republicans have supported for nearly half a century. Without it, abortions could become cheaper, easier, and funded with billions of taxpayer dollars.

Pope Francis has expressed many times that human life is the most fundamental right and is not first a religious issue, but rather, a human rights issue. The Holy Father also has said, “the future of humanity...is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their capacity to organize”.

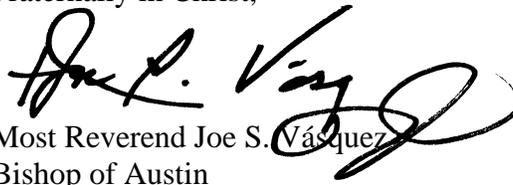
In response to the Holy Father’s encouraging words, I ask you to join me in requesting Catholics to send a clear message to Congress before they move forward and impose taxpayer-funded abortion. I invite the people of your parish to join our diocesan response to this nationwide effort by the USCCB, set for the **first week of June**. The primary goal is for *millions of Catholics* to sign the petition on NoTaxpayerAbortion.com.

The USCCB has created easy, ready-to-use communication tools that can be found at respectlife.org/no-taxpayer-abortion. These include graphics, flyers, and infographics. More tools continue to be added as they become available, so be sure to check back.

Additionally, the USCCB is hosting a webinar **Wednesday, May 12 at 2:00 PM (EDT)**, that will give more information on the push for tax dollars to pay for abortion and what Catholics can do to stop it. Anyone interested can register at respectlife.org/no-taxpayer-abortion.

Please join me in asking the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God and the Church, and St. Joseph, to protect the most vulnerable and our nation from this proposed change to the Hyde Amendment.

Fraternally in Christ,


Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez
Bishop of Austin

JSV:mj