

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 15, 2021

The Honorable Denis R. McDonough  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
810 Vermont Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20420

Dear Mr. Secretary:


We write to make you aware of a legal prohibition against the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) providing abortion and to encourage you to embrace life-affirming policies and practices for our nation's veterans in your work as the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

As you know, 38 Code of Federal Regulations §17.38(c)(1) prohibits VA from offering abortion or abortion counseling to veteran patients. During a recent hearing before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, you stated that you do not plan to pursue public rulemaking to amend that regulation and add abortion or abortion counseling to VA's medical benefits package. We applaud that assurance. It is undoubtedly the right decision for veterans and their unborn children. However, we wanted to make you aware that, in addition to that regulatory prohibition, VA is also prohibited from providing abortion in law. Section 106 of the Veterans Health Care Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-585) authorized VA to provide certain health care services to women veterans but specifically prohibited VA from providing abortions. That prohibition remains law.

It is our belief – and the law maintains – that VA must never use taxpayer dollars to provide abortions or abortion counseling to veterans. To do so would be contrary to the God-given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness that generations of veterans fought to defend. We trust that you agree and that you will continue to protect and preserve the sanctity of life in VA.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your commitment to the men and women who have served.


Sincerely,

  
Matthew Rosendale, Sr.  
Member of Congress

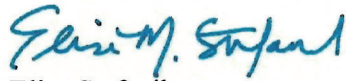
  
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Smith  
Member of Congress

  
Mariannette Miller-Meeks  
Member of Congress



Steve Scalise  
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik  
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer  
Member of Congress



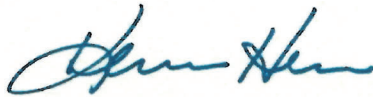
Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



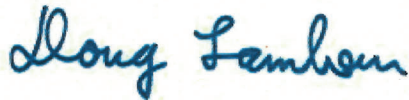
Gary Palmer  
Member of Congress



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



Bob Good  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress




Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress




Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



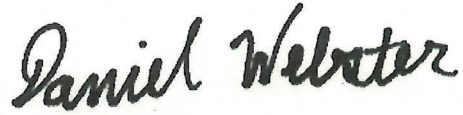
Randy Weber  
Member of Congress



Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



Ted Budd  
Member of Congress



Jeff Van Drew  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



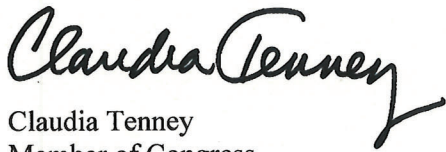
Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



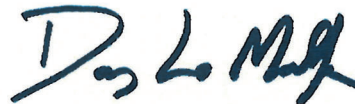
Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



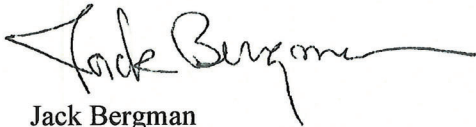
Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



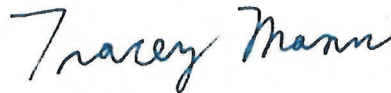
Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



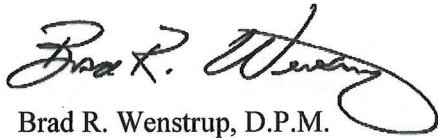
Tracey Mann  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress



Jim Banks  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress



Mike D. Rogers  
Member of Congress



Brian Mast  
Member of Congress



W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress




Michael Waltz  
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner  
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress



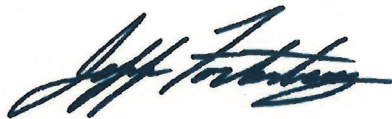
Robert Aderholt  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



Jeff Fortenberry  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
Member of Congress



Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



John Joyce  
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jim Jordan  
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler  
Member of Congress

Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress

Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress

Robert J. Wittman  
Member of Congress

Carol Miller  
Member of Congress

Debbie Lesko  
Member of Congress

Scott Fitzgerald  
Member of Congress

Bryan Steil  
Member of Congress

Mary Miller  
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer  
Member of Congress

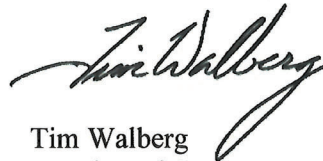
Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress

Lisa McClain  
Member of Congress



Bill Posey  
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg  
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth  
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney  
Member of Congress



Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks  
Member of Congress



Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



Chip Roy  
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot  
Member of Congress



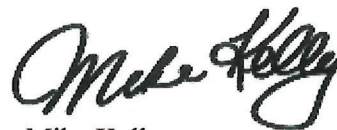
Chris Jacobs  
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



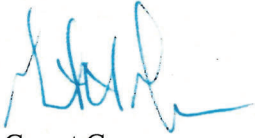
Marjorie Taylor Greene  
Member of Congress



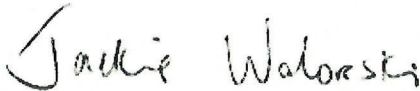
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



Garret Graves  
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski  
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan  
Member of Congress



Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Liz Cheney  
Member of Congress



Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



Beth Van Duyne  
Member of Congress



Greg Pence  
Member of Congress



Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



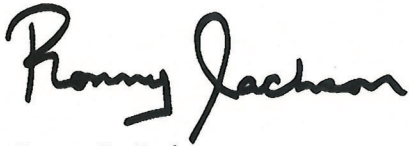
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Ashley Hinson  
Member of Congress



James R. Baird  
Member of Congress



Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



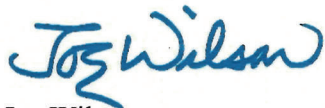
Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



Mark E. Green, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Kelly Armstrong  
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



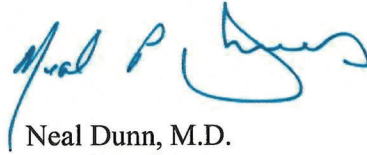
Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress



Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Neal Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Fred Keller  
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress



Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



Michael Guest  
Member of Congress

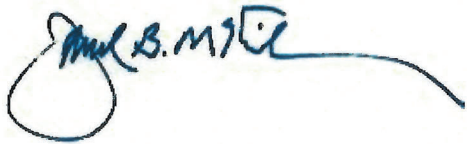


Tony Gonzales  
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress





David B. McKinley P.E.  
Member of Congress



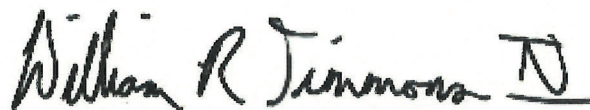
Matt Gaetz  
Member of Congress



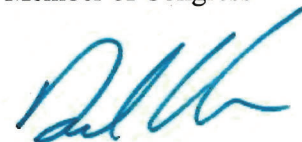
David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



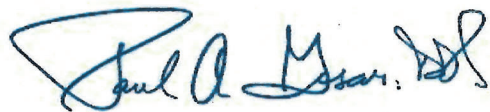
Jerry L. Carl  
Member of Congress



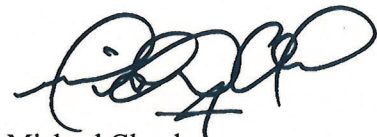
William Timmons  
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress



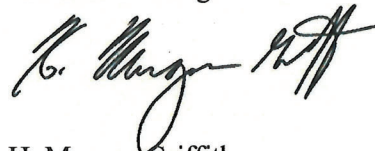
Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



Ron Estes  
Member of Congress



Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



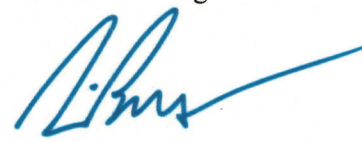
H. Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress



Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



French Hill  
Member of Congress



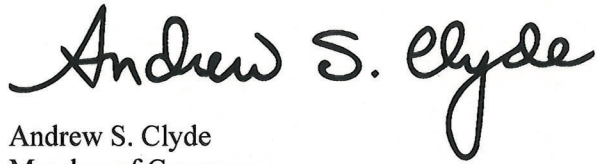
Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



Thomas Massie  
Member of Congress



Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress