



# THE HYDE AMENDMENT

The Hyde Amendment blocks United States federal funding from being used for abortion procedures, except in the cases of rape, incest, or threat to a woman's life. This means that women who have health insurance through the federal government do not have the benefit of abortion coverage.

Affected programs include those that cover low-income people, disabled people, military personnel, veterans, Native Americans, federal employees, federal prisoners, detained immigrants, and Peace Corps volunteers. People who fall into these categories must pay for their abortions out of pocket, which is especially difficult for patients who are already struggling financially, as in the case of those who are poor enough to qualify for Medicaid.

## DIFFERENT COVERAGE IN DIFFERENT STATES

Medicaid recipients make up the majority of people who are impacted by the Hyde Amendment. Approximately 13 million women of reproductive age (15–44) are covered by Medicaid. These women struggle to survive on salaries that don't come close to a living wage—a \$500 abortion (the average cost of a first-trimester procedure) is completely out of reach.

Medicaid is funded by the federal government and by each state's government. There are currently 15 states that use their own funds to provide abortion coverage for Medicaid recipients who don't meet the federal allowed exceptions (rape, incest, threat to woman's life). There are 7.5 million women of reproductive age who receive Medicaid, however, who live in Washington, DC, and the 35 states that do not cover abortion outside of the Hyde exceptions with their own funds.

Women who qualify for income-based federal subsidies when purchasing insurance from the Affordable Care Act marketplace are also disqualified from receiving abortion coverage in the states that do not cover abortion outside of the Hyde exceptions.

## ORIGINS OF THE AMENDMENT

Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) authored the Hyde Amendment in 1976. When debating the amendment with his colleagues, he said, "I certainly would like to prevent, if I could legally, anybody having an abortion—a rich woman, a middle-class woman, or a poor woman. Unfortunately, the only vehicle available is the...Medicaid bill." Congress approved the Hyde Amendment in the 1977 appropriations bill, as it has done every year since then.

### EQUAL ACCESS TO ABORTION COVERAGE IN HEALTH INSURANCE ACT (EACH WOMAN ACT)

#### IN THE SENATE

Bill Number: S.758

Sponsor: Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Latest Action: March 12, 2019 (Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions)

Number of Cosponsors: 24

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Bill Number: H.R.1692

Sponsor: Barbara Lee (D-CA)

Latest Action: March 13, 2019 (Referred to the Subcommittee on Health)

Number of Cosponsors: 181

Summary (same for Senate and House bills):  
Would counter the Hyde Amendment and restore abortion coverage to people who get their health insurance through Medicaid and other federal programs. Additionally, it would bar federal and state governments from interfering with abortion coverage in private health insurance.