

December 11, 2015

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
U.S. House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cochran, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Lowey:

The undersigned organizations write in strong opposition to the inclusion of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (ANDA), or similar language, in a year-end funding agreement. ANDA is an extreme, poison pill rider that would undermine women's ability to obtain abortion care, including in life-threatening circumstances.

In the *Hobby Lobby* decision, the sharply-divided Supreme Court allowed certain bosses' beliefs to trump women's health. Like the result in *Hobby Lobby*, ANDA would allow women's health and lives to come second to the beliefs of others—with dangerous results for women. It would radically expand the Weldon Amendment, a harmful annual appropriations rider that already obstructs access to abortion care. ANDA would create a new right for health care entities to refuse to “participate in” abortion care—“participate in” is a vague term that could result in a hospital turning away a woman in a life-threatening situation who needs emergency abortion care or a health care provider refusing to give her complete information about her health, including whether abortion is a treatment option. Not only that, it would open the door to frivolous lawsuits by allowing a wide range of individuals and entities to sue in federal court in order to block a range of policies that help ensure women have access to abortion.

Opponents of women's health should not add yet another dangerous policy rider that undermines women's access to comprehensive reproductive care, including access to safe and legal abortion. This latest effort is just the most recent attempt in this year's unprecedented number of attacks on women's health. We urge you to reject any effort to include any version of this destructive language in the spending package.

Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth  
American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
American Civil Liberties Union  
Americans United for Separation of Church and State  
California Women's Law Center  
Catholics for Choice

Center for Reproductive Rights  
Human Rights Campaign  
Institute for Science and Human Values  
Medical Students for Choice  
MergerWatch  
Methodist Federation for Social Action  
NARAL Pro-Choice America  
National Abortion Federation  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association  
National Health Law Program  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Network of Abortion Funds  
National Organization for Women  
National Partnership for Women and Families  
National Women's Law Center  
PAI  
People For the American Way  
Physicians for Reproductive Health  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Population Connection Action Fund  
Population Institute  
Pro-Choice Resources  
Reproductive Health Technologies Project  
Secular Coalition for America  
Secular Policy Institute  
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)  
The Los Angeles LGBT Center  
The Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice