

President George H.W. Bush (41): Pro-Life Veto Commitment

During the presidency of George H.W. Bush (1989-1993), the Senate and the House of Representatives were controlled by the Democrat party.

June 4, 1991: President George H.W. Bush signed a letter stating, *“I will veto any legislation that weakens current law or existing regulation.”*

During his term of office, President Bush issued three pro-life vetoes. All were upheld by the House of Representatives.¹

HR 2990, Labor, HHS Education Appropriations Action of 1990

Democrats attempt to weaken the Hyde Amendment

- **October 11, 1989:** HR 2990 contained the Boxer Amendment, which would have allowed Medicaid to fund abortion in cases of rape and incest. At that time, the Hyde Amendment, which does not allow LHHHS funding to be used for abortion, only contained an exception to save the life of the mother. (Since that time, the Hyde Amendment has been changed to include life of the mother, rape, and incest).
- **October 21, 1989:** President Bush vetoed HR 2990
- **October 25, 1989:** Pro-Abortion leaders attempted to override the President’s veto of HR 2990. A majority (231-191) voted to override the veto. This fell 51 votes short of the two-thirds majority required to override it.

HR 2707: Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Act of 1992

Democrats attempt to overturn pro-life protections on Title X funding

- **November 7, 1991:** Congress passed a bill that included a provision that would overturn pro-life regulations prohibiting abortion counseling and referral in clinics that receive Title X funds.
- **November 19, 1991:** President Bush vetoed HR 2707.
- **November 19, 1991:** The House voted to override the veto (276-156). This was 12 votes less than the two-thirds majority required to override the veto.

HR 2507: National Institutes of Health Reauthorization (Cancer Registries Amendment Act)

Democrats attempt to allow fetal tissue research using body parts obtained from aborted babies

- This bill reauthorized the National Institutes of Health (NIH). The conference report would have lifted the ban on fetal tissue transplant research using fetal tissue research obtained from induced abortions.
- **June 23, 1992:** HR 2507 was vetoed by President Bush
- **June 24, 1992:** The House voted to override the veto (271-156). This was 14 votes less than the two-thirds majority required to override the veto.

¹ Accounts drawn from Voter Scorecards provided by the National Right to Life Committee between 1989-1991.