

CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
4TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

CONSTITUENT SERVICE CENTERS:

1540 Kuser Road, Suite A9
Hamilton, NJ 08619-3828
(609) 585-7878
TTY (609) 585-3650

108 Lacey Road, Suite 38A
Whiting, NJ 08759-1331
(732) 350-2300

2373 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-3004
(202) 225-3765

<http://chrissmith.house.gov>



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Remarks on HR 3 Floor Debate
May 4, 2011
Rep. Chris Smith

There is no doubt whatsoever that ending public funding for abortions saves lives.

Even the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute in a June 2009 Report stated that, “approximately one-fourth of women who would have Medicaid-funded abortions [if the Hyde Amendment did not exist] instead give birth when this funding is unavailable.”

I said earlier during the debate on the rule that I remember the late Congressman Henry Hyde being moved literally to tears when he learned that the Hyde Amendment had likely saved the lives of more than a million babies—who today are getting on with their lives, going to school, forging a career or even establishing their own families.

HR 3—the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act—comprehensively ensures that all programs authorized and appropriated by the federal government, including Obamacare, do not subsidize the killing of babies, except in the rare cases of rape, incest or the life of the mother.

HR 3 ends the current IRS policy allowing tax favored treatment for abortions under itemized deductions, HSAs, MSAs and FSAs. HR 3 also ends the use of tax credits under Obamacare to purchase insurance plans that include abortion, except cases of rape, incest or life of the mother.

And HR 3 will make the Hyde Weldon conscience protection permanent and significantly more effective by authorizing the courts to prevent or redress actual or threatened violations of conscience.

Someday, Mr. Speaker, future generations of Americans will look back on policymakers and wonder how and why such a rich and seemingly enlightened society, so blessed and endowed with the capacity to protect and enhance vulnerable human life, could have instead so

aggressively promoted death to children and the exploitation of women by abortion. They will note with deep sadness that some of our most prominent politicians including presidents often spoke of human and civil rights, while precluding virtually all protection to the most persecuted minority in the world today: the child in the womb.

HR 3 permanently and comprehensively cuts federal funding and facilitation of abortion. I respectfully ask my colleagues to support it.