

State Policy Brief

Cease Abortion Subsidies in Healthcare (CASH) Act

KEY POINTS

Abortion is not healthcare, and taxpayers should not fund, incentivize, provide preferential tax treatment for, or otherwise subsidize the elective taking of unborn life.

In light of a renewed push in Congress to repeal the Hyde Amendment, states must take legislative action to stop taxpayer subsidies of abortion.

The CASH Act codifies a state version of the Hyde Amendment and prohibits taxpayer funds from going to abortion providers and subsidizing their abortion business model.

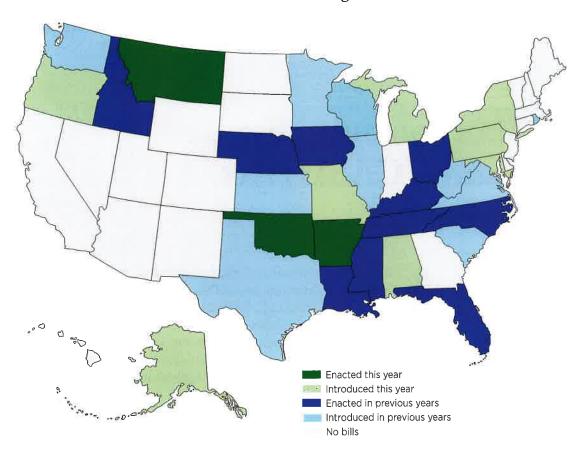
bortion is not healthcare, and taxpayers should not fund, incentivize, provide preferential tax treatment for, or otherwise subsidize the elective taking of unborn life. In light of a renewed push in Congress to repeal the Hyde Amendment and increase government funding for abortion businesses like Planned Parenthood, states must take legislative action to stop taxpayer subsidies of abortion. They can do this by codifying a state version of the Hyde Amendment and closing the Medicaid loophole, through which Planned Parenthood receives the bulk of its taxpayer funding. The CASH Act does both.

Legislative Intent

In 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalized abortion through all nine months of pregnancy. Ever since, bipartisan efforts in Congress and 23 states have taken steps to stop taxpayer funds from paying for abortions. These actions are consistent with polling that show a majority of Americans (nearly 60 percent) oppose funding abortions with taxpayer dollars. However, these efforts are under attack, and Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion business, still receives millions of dollars in taxpayer funding. The CASH Act would begin to close the largest loopholes by (1) codifying a state version of the Hyde Amendment and (2) prohibiting taxpayer funds from going to abortion providers.

The abortion industry receives taxpayer funds from multiple funding streams, and no state has successfully ended *all* taxpayer funding—yet. Because several of the largest funding streams are federal block grants administered or regulated by state governments, efforts to defund the abortion industry have been further complicated by the courts and pro-abortion federal administrations. The CASH Act includes several options to defund abortion and abortion providers. States can begin by taking all the legislative steps possible to untangle both federal and state funds passing through the state from subsidizing abortion. Then states have the option of directing their state executives to take further action to exclude abortion providers from the Medicaid program or going after the court precedents that have blocked states from defunding abortion providers in Medicaid.

Abortion Defunding Laws



Key Provisions

- Legislative findings reinforcing the principle that taxpayer dollars should not fund the abortion industry.
- **Definitions** clarifying that "public funds" include all federal (except Medicaid), state, and local public funds; a definition of abortion is also provided.
- Codifies state version of the federal Hyde Amendment and prohibits funding of entities that perform abortions.
- A severability clause, right of intervention granted to the legislature, and required defense of legislation by the state executive.