

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2014

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

Recent news reports have indicated that several colleagues in the House of Representatives hope to use forthcoming appropriations legislation as a vehicle for language that would severely compromise women's health. As co-chairs of the House Pro-Choice Caucus, we write to express our strong opposition to subverting the legislative process in order to promote ideological platforms.

The legislative proposals that we understand have been discussed would effectively undo the preventive services benefits of the Affordable Care Act and allow a private right of action for any individual or corporation that feels it has experienced a violation of "conscience" as a result of providing any health care service to which they have an objection. This broad language goes far beyond other related proposals previously rejected in the Senate and would severely restrict access to necessary health care services, especially for women.

This kind of political maneuvering – using must-pass legislation to accomplish a "wish list" of one faction of Congress and risking a government shutdown - is precisely the kind of behavior the American people detest. We urge you in the strongest possible terms to keep any appropriations legislation considered before the close of the 113th Congress free from ideological policy riders.

Sincerely,



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress