Dear Member of Congress,

When the Supreme Court overturned and buried *Roe v. Wade*, the majority opinion rightly said that the American people—through their elected representatives—will determine our nation’s abortion policy. The American people responded by electing a pro-life majority to the people’s House, and Members have a duty to advance the cause of life in 2023.

We write to urge you to exercise Congress’s constitutional authority to legislate abortion policy at the federal level and pursue a robust pro-life agenda. The measures outlined below are the initial steps towards our ultimate goal: an America where every person is protected and welcomed in both life and law, from conception. The policies we highlight are the floor, not the ceiling, of what we expect from a pro-life majority in the House of Representatives:

Congress must recognize that every abortion ends a human life and should pass the Heartbeat Protection Act, which shines a light on the undeniable innocence and humanity of unborn children.

Congress must protect babies who survive abortions. The Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act would require that infants born alive after an abortion receive proper medical care and hold providers who fail to do so legally accountable. Currently, many abortion survivors are vulnerable to neglect and death, especially in abortion sanctuary states. This is inhumane and unacceptable.

Congress must protect unborn children with Down syndrome from abortion. The Protecting Individuals with Down Syndrome Act would affirm that no child should be killed in the womb just for being diagnosed with Down syndrome. The abortion rate for babies diagnosed with (or suspected of having) Down syndrome is around 90 percent. Surely most Members of Congress can agree that these wonderful little girls and boys deserve the chance to live.

Congress must limit the interstate flow of dangerous abortion drugs. With the current patchwork of laws, abortion sanctuary states and rogue abortion-pill pushers are working to undermine states that protect women and unborn babies from these pills. Last year, the Biden Administration weakened FDA protocols to allow women to receive abortion pills by mail and without a doctor’s exam. These DIY abortions put women’s health and safety at risk. Congress should stop the FDA’s reckless, ideologically motivated policies. The SAVE Moms and Babies Act is a start.
Congress must end taxpayer funding for abortions—and the abortion industry, led by Planned Parenthood—once and for all. In recent months, the Biden Administration has ignored federal law by promoting abortions with tax dollars through the Departments of Health and Human Services, Defense, and Veterans Affairs. Meanwhile, Planned Parenthood still nets over half a billion dollars from taxpayers every year. Beyond annual appropriations riders, Congress should make abortion-funding restrictions permanent. The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, the Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act, and the Protecting Life and Taxpayers Act would accomplish these goals.

Congress must protect conscience rights for Americans who decline to assist with or fund abortion. Such protections have long existed in federal law, but the current and former Administrations have been negligent in enforcing them. The Conscience Protection Act would provide those who refuse to support abortions with a private right of action. That means that they can have their day in court rather than being wholly at the mercy of bureaucrats in the federal government.

The policies outlined above should also be a springboard for hearings and congressional oversight. Furthermore, Congress should ensure annual re-enactment of every existing pro-life appropriations rider, including the Hyde, Helms, Smith, Dornan, and Weldon amendments.

As Justice Brett Kavanaugh observed in the Dobbs decision, the Constitution leaves the abortion question to “the people and their elected representatives to resolve through the democratic process in the States or Congress.” (Emphasis added.) With several states pledging massive resistance to the Dobbs decision, congressional silence on the fundamental human right to life is not an option. Members cannot squander the opportunity to advance policies that protect innocent life in the first Congress to convene in post-Roe America.

Sincerely,

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The Heritage Foundation

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President, Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America

Jessica Anderson,
Executive Director,
Heritage Action for America

Catherine Glenn Foster
President and CEO, Americans United for Life

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