



May 27, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Vice Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As Congress undertakes the appropriations process for Fiscal Year 2027, you will be hearing from several USCCB committees encouraging your support for the poor, migrants and refugees, foreign assistance, environmental protection, health care, housing, nutrition, and more to help people meet basic needs, and to maintain longstanding protections for pre-born human life.

Consistent with these requests to support and protect human life and dignity at all stages, I thus write on behalf of the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth to respectfully urge you to steward taxpayer funding away from government-sponsored programs that facilitate the spread of gender ideology—what Pope Francis referred to as the “worst danger”<sup>1</sup> in our time—especially as it impacts children.

Congress should prioritize the protection of children from gender ideology in its annual appropriation process for Fiscal Year 2027, by excluding any federal funding for the promotion of gender ideology or provision of sex-rejecting procedures, such as chemical or surgical interventions that aim to alter the fundamental order of the human body. We especially urge Congress to be vigilant in rejecting Congressionally Directed Spending requests that would raise these concerns.

Gender ideology obscures the distinction between man woman, teaching that biological sex can be disconnected from one’s personal “gender identity,” so that one may decide to reject one’s biological sexual identity as male or female rather than receive it as a gift from God, who created us in his own image.<sup>2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> Pope Francis, To participants in the International Conference “Man-Woman: Image of God. Towards an Anthropology of Vocations,” March 1, 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation on Love in the Family (*Amoris Laetitia*), 16 March 2016, nos. 56 and



United States  
Conference of  
Catholic Bishops

Further, with regard to Congress’s historic, one year defunding of the abortion industry in within H.R. 1, Act to Provide for Reconciliation Pursuant to Title II of H. Con. Res. 14 (“One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) last year, we urge any future reconciliation bill to apply a similar approach to the “gender transition” industry to prevent federal taxpayer funds from going to organizations that provide sex-rejecting services, especially to children and adolescents.

When vulnerable children are falsely told that one can change his or her sex, they become potential targets for the “gender transition” industry<sup>3</sup> with adverse effects to their health and well-being.<sup>4</sup> This is especially insidious given that children and adolescents are still maturing and not capable of providing informed consent to life-altering medical interventions that often lead to permanent physical mutilation and lifelong infertility.

Please count on my prayers for you as you deliberate the federal appropriations for important priorities of the nation.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward J. Burns".

Most Reverend Edward J. Burns  
Bishop of Dallas  
Chairman, Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

---

285. See also Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Declaration on Human Dignity (*Dignitas infinita*), 8 April 2024, nos. 55-60.

<sup>3</sup> “U.S. Sex Reassignment Hormone Therapy Market Size, Share & Trends Analysis Report By Gender Transition (Male-To-Female, Female-To-Male), By Type (Puberty Blockers, Estrogen), By Distribution Channel, And Segment Forecasts, 2023 – 2030,” Grand View Research, available at <https://www.grandviewresearch.com/industry-analysis/us-sex-reassignment-hormone-therapy-market-report>; see also The American Principles Project, “The Gender Industrial Complex,” 2024, available at <https://americanprinciplesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Gender-Industrial-Complex-Full-Report.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> S.-M.Ruuska, K.Tuisku, T.Holtinen, and R.Kaltiala, “Psychiatric Morbidity Among Adolescents and Young Adults Who Contacted Specialised Gender Identity Services in Finland in 1996–2019: A Register Study,” *Acta Paediatrica* (2026): 1–9, <https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.70533>; Department of Health and Human Services, Treatment for Pediatric Dysphoria: Review of Evidence and Best Practices, May 1, 2025, accessible at <https://opa.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/2025-05/gender-dysphoriareport.pdf>; McDeavitt, K., Cohn, J. & Kulatunga-Moruzi, C. Pediatric Gender Affirming Care is Not Evidence-based. *Curr Sex Health Rep* 17, 12 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11930-025-00404-w>.