
The Guaranteeing the Unborn Access to Respect and Dignity (GUARD) Act

Every human life holds innate and profound dignity and worth from conception, and it is vital the federal government respects each human life. Essential to protecting unborn children, is the prohibition of federal funds to perform abortions or cover abortion-related activities.

For years, the Department of Defense (DOD) has been party to a long-standing statutory prohibition that prevents them from using taxpayer funds to finance the performance of an abortion. Unfortunately, because the U.S. Coast Guard is housed under the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and not the DoD, the Coast Guard is not prohibited by law to use federal funds to perform abortions. As a result, President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have been able to direct Coast Guard leadership to use taxpayer dollars to finance abortion-related travel since at least March of 2023.¹

Senator Lee's GUARD Act will bring an end to this practice. The legislation provides a simple but critical fix to current law to eliminate the existing loophole that permits the Biden Administration to use taxpayer funds to pay for abortion-related travel and other expenses for Members of the Coast Guard, and defends the sanctity of life.

Bill Specifics:

The Guaranteeing the Unborn Access to Respect and Dignity (GUARD) Act amends Title 14 of US Code to prohibit these practices. Specifically, the GUARD Act:

- Makes clear that the Coast Guard may not use taxpayer funds to:
 - Pay for abortions; and
 - Pay for abortion-related travel.
- Prohibits the Coast Guard from using their medical facilities to perform abortions.

If you're interested in learning more about the GUARD Act, or if your boss would like to be added as a cosponsor of the legislation, you can contact Will Mascaro (william_mascaro@lee.senate.gov) or Emme James (emme_james@lee.senate.gov).

¹ "Travel for non-covered reproductive care now covered"
<https://www.mycg.uscg.mil/News/Article/3320878/reproductive-health-care-3-updates-you-should-know/>