



Rep. Paul Ryan (R-WI)

Rep. Paul Ryan has served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1999 to present. Rep. Ryan is anti-choice.

During his time in the House, Rep. Ryan has cast 60 votes on abortion and other reproductive-rights issues.¹ All of these votes were anti-choice.

A description of Rep. Ryan's key actions on choice-related issues and a selection of his public statements on reproductive-health issues follows.^a

Roe v. Wade and a Woman's Right to Choose

-  Cosponsored several "personhood" measures that, if passed and enacted into law, would end legal abortion, ban several of the most common forms of birth control, restrict fertility treatments, and put an end to stem-cell research. Also voted to give new legal rights to a pregnancy in various contexts.²
-  Cosponsored and repeatedly voted for the Federal Abortion Ban, a law that criminalizes some abortion services, endangers women's health, and carries a two-year prison sentence for doctors.³
-  Voted for an unconstitutional ban on abortion after 20 weeks in the District of Columbia, that has no exception for cases of rape, incest, or fetal anomaly and carries a two-year prison sentence for doctors.⁴

Access to Abortion Services

-  Cosponsored a measure requiring a woman to undergo a forced ultrasound even if not medically necessary before receiving abortion services, and even if against the woman's will.⁵
-  Voted for the notorious Stupak amendment, a proposal to ban abortion coverage to women in state health-insurance exchanges, even those buying health insurance entirely with their own funds.⁶
-  Voted for and cosponsored a bill that would: effectively ban abortion coverage in state health-insurance exchanges; impose tax penalties on small businesses and many individuals who purchase private health plans that include abortion coverage; and

^a In some cases, procedural votes are included if they are deemed sufficiently representative of the substantive issue.

permanently deny low-income women, civil servants, and military women access to abortion services, even when their health is at risk.⁷



Voted for and cosponsored a bill that would effectively ban abortion coverage in state health-insurance exchanges and allow hospitals to refuse to provide emergency abortion care, even when a woman's life is in danger. The bill also gives states the ability to undermine coverage of many health-related services, such as contraception.⁸



Voted to criminalize a doctor for failure to determine if the expected sex of the pregnancy is a factor in a woman's decision to seek abortion care.⁹



Repeatedly voted to deny women in the military – who defend our freedom overseas – the right to use their own, private funds for abortion care at military hospitals.¹⁰



Voted to bar the District of Columbia from using *its own local funds* to provide abortion services for low-income women.¹¹



Repeatedly voted to deny federal employees the right to choose health insurance that includes abortion coverage.¹²



Repeatedly voted to block the FDA from using funds for testing, approving, or regulating mifepristone (commonly known as RU 486).¹³



Repeatedly voted to make it a federal crime for anyone other than a parent – including a grandparent, adult sibling, or religious counselor – to accompany a young woman across state lines for abortion care if the home state parental-involvement mandate has not been met.¹⁴



Repeatedly voted to impose a new, impossibly complex national patchwork of parental-notification mandates on doctors and young women.¹⁵

Family Planning



Repeatedly voted against international family-planning programs.¹⁶



Voted against contraceptive equity for federal employees – a law to ensure that health plans cover birth control equally with other prescription medication.¹⁷

Women's Health



Repeatedly voted to disqualify Planned Parenthood from receiving federal funds, which would deny millions of women access to comprehensive reproductive-health care and preventive services.¹⁸



Voted for an appropriations bill that defunded Planned Parenthood, eliminated the Title X family-planning program, and reinstated the D.C. abortion ban.¹⁹



Voted to block federal funds from being used by teaching health centers for abortion provision or training in abortion care.²⁰

In His Own Words

- Rep. Ryan reiterated his opposition to abortion for rape survivors when he said, “I’m very proud of my pro-life record, and I’ve always adopted the idea that, the position that the method of conception doesn’t change the definition of life.”²¹
- “Mr. Speaker, this is perhaps the worst bill I have seen come to the floor in my 11 years of serving in Congress. And what would make this bill worse, is if we break with the longstanding law of preventing abortions from being funded with taxpayer dollars. For those of us who support the protection of and the sanctity of life, the only vote, the right vote, the vote to keep a clean conscience, is a yes vote for the Stupak amendment.”²²
- “I’m as pro-life as a person gets. You’re not going to have a truce. Judges are going to come up. Issues come up, they’re unavoidable, and I’m never going to not vote pro-life.”²³
- “The second time the Court failed in a case regarding the definition of ‘human’ was in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, when the Supreme Court made virtually the identical mistake.”²⁴
- Paul Ryan mocked the War on Women, saying “Now it’s a war on women; tomorrow it’s going to be a war on left-handed Irishmen or something like that.”²⁵

Notes:

¹ NARAL Pro-Choice America, *Congressional Record on Choice* (1993-2011); Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act (PRENDA) of 2012, H.R.3541, 5/31/12; District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, H.R.3803, 7/31/12.

² H.R.212, 112th Cong. § 1 (2011); H.R.227, 111th Cong. § 1 (2009); Unborn Victims of Violence Act, H.R.2436, 9/30/99; Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2001, H.R.503, 4/26/01; Unborn Victims of Violence Act of 2004, H.R.1997, 2/26/04.

³ Adoption of rule regarding “Partial Birth” Abortion Ban Act of 2000, H.Res.457, 4/5/00; “Partial-Birth” Abortion Ban Act of 2000, H.R.3660, 4/5/00; Adoption of the rule regarding “Partial Birth” Abortion Ban Act of 2002, H.Res.498, 7/24/02; “Partial Birth” Abortion Ban Act of 2002, H.R.4965, 7/24/02; “Partial Birth” Abortion Ban Act of 2003 Conference Report, S.3, 10/2/03.

⁴ District of Columbia Pain-Capable Unborn Child Protection Act, H.R.3803, 7/31/12.

⁵ H.R.3805, 112th Cong. § 2 (2012).

⁶ Stupak amendment to Affordable Health Care for America Act, H.R.3962, 11/7/09; Camp motion to recommit Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010, H.R.4872, 3/21/10.

⁷ No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, H.R.3, 5/4/11.

⁸ Protect Life Act, H.R.358, 10/13/11.

⁹ Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act, H.R.3541, 5/31/12.

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- ¹⁰ Sanchez amendment to FY'00-01 Department of Defense Authorization Act, H.R.1401, 6/9/99; Sanchez amendment to FY'01 Department of Defense Authorization Act, H.R.4205, 5/18/00; Sanchez amendment to FY'02 Department of Defense Authorization Act, H.R.2586, 9/25/01; Sanchez amendment to FY'03 Department of Defense Authorization Act, H.R.4546, 5/10/02; Sanchez amendment to FY'04 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R.1588, 5/22/03; Davis amendment to FY'05 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R.4200, 5/19/04; Davis amendment to FY'06 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R.1815, 5/25/05; Davis amendment to FY'07 National Defense Authorization Act, H.R.5122, 5/10/06.
- ¹¹ Tiaht motion to recommit FY'10 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, H.R.3710, 7/16/09.
- ¹² DeLauro amendment to FY'00 Treasury, Postal Service Appropriations bill, H.R.2490, 7/15/99; DeLauro amendment to FY'01 Treasury, Postal Service Appropriations bill, H.R.4871, 7/20/00.
- ¹³ Coburn amendment to FY'00 Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R.1906, 6/8/99; Coburn amendment to FY'01 Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R.4461, 7/10/00; King amendment to FY'12 Agriculture Appropriations bill, H.R.2112, 6/16/11.
- ¹⁴ Jackson-Lee motion to recommit Child Custody Protection Act of 1999, H.R.1218, 6/30/99; Child Custody Protection Act of 1999, H.R.1218, 6/30/99; Child Custody Protection Act of 2002, H.R.476, 4/17/02.
- ¹⁵ Scott amendment to Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, H.R.748, 4/27/05; Jackson Lee amendment to Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, H.R.748, 4/27/05; Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, H.R.748, 4/27/05; Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act, S.403, 9/26/06.
- ¹⁶ Campbell amendment to FY'00-01 American Embassies Security Act, H.R.2415, 7/20/99; Smith amendment to FY'00 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R.2606, 7/29/99; Greenwood/Lowey amendment to FY'00 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R.2606, 7/29/99; Paul amendment to FY'00 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R.2606, 8/3/99; Greenwood/Lowey amendment to FY'01 Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R.4811, 7/13/00; Hyde amendment to FY'02 State Department Authorization Act, H.R.1646, 5/16/01; Smith amendment to FY'04-05 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, H.R.1950, 7/15/03; Smith amendment to FY'06 Foreign Relations Authorization Act, H.R.2601, 7/19/05; Smith/Stupak amendment to FY'08 State, Foreign Operations Appropriations bill, H.R.2764, 6/21/07.
- ¹⁷ Lowey amendment to FY'00 Treasury, Postal Service Appropriations bill, H.R.2490, 7/15/99.
- ¹⁸ Pence amendment to FY'08 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, H.R.3043, 7/19/07; Pence amendment to FY'10 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations Act, H.R.3293, 7/24/09; Pence amendment to FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.R.1, 2/18/11; Enrollment Resolution to FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.Con.Res.36, 4/14/11.
- ¹⁹ FY'11 Continuing Resolution, H.R.1, 2/19/11.
- ²⁰ Foxx amendment to H.R.1216, 5/25/11.
- ²¹ *The Raw Story*, "Ryan on abortion exceptions: Rape is just another 'method of conception'," <http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2012/08/24/ryan-on-abortion-exceptions-rape-is-just-another-method-of-conception/>, August 24, 2012.
- ²² U.S. House floor speech, transcribed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vkT0b9oTfo>
- ²³ *The Weekly Standard*, *Paul Ryan: GOP Must Continue Fighting for the Right to Life* by John McCormack <http://www.weeklystandard.com/blogs/paul-ryan-gop-must-continue-fighting-right-life>, September 22, 2010.
- ²⁴ "The Cause of Life Can't be Severed from the Cause of Freedom" by Paul Ryan <http://paulryan.house.gov/News/DocumentSingle.aspx?DocumentID=207539>, September 20, 2010.
- ²⁵ *At Fla. fundraiser, Paul Ryan mocks 'war on women'*, WASHINGTON POST, Oct. 18, 2012.