



September 7, 2017

**RE: Vote NO on Representative Palmer's Amendment #192 to H.R.  
3354, the "Make America Secure and Prosperous Appropriations  
Act, 2018."**

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union, please find attached our letter urging a NO vote on Representative Palmer's amendment #192 to H.R. 3354, the FY 2018 "minibus" appropriations bill, which includes the Financial Services and General Government Appropriations bill. Representative Palmer's amendment would block D.C. from carrying out the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act (RHNDA).

Please contact Georgeanne Usova at (202) 675-2338 or [gusova@aclu.org](mailto:gusova@aclu.org) with any questions.

Regards,

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**ACLU Recommends a NO Vote on the Palmer Amendment #192 to H.R. 3354**

**The Palmer amendment would interfere with D.C.'s local non-discrimination law protecting employees from discrimination in the workplace based on their personal reproductive health care decisions.**

The Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act (RHNDA) ensures that employees in D.C. do not face workplace discrimination on the basis of their reproductive health care decisions or those of their family members. These may include such personal decisions as whether to use birth control or fertility treatments, whether to terminate a pregnancy, or whether to start a family while unmarried. The RHNDA allows employees in D.C. to make these decisions privately in consultation with those they trust, without fear of consequences at work. **Despite claims from some opponents, the RHNDA does *not* impose any new requirements on employers to provide insurance coverage for or otherwise pay for any reproductive health service.**

The Palmer Amendment would interfere with this important non-discrimination law by prohibiting the use of funds to carry it out. Efforts to block RHNDA have been based on misguided and inaccurate claims that the law infringes on religious liberty. In fact, the opposite is true: the RHNDA protects D.C. employees of all faiths by ensuring that they are able to follow their own religious or moral beliefs when making personal health care decisions—not forced to follow those of their employers.

Religious liberty is one of our nation's most fundamental and cherished values. It guarantees everyone the freedom to believe what they choose and to act on those beliefs, but it does not allow anyone to discriminate against or harm others in the name of religion. The RHNDA prevents employers from doing just that—using their beliefs to discriminate against employees who make private health care decisions.

**For the above reasons, the ACLU urges you to vote NO on Representative Palmer's amendment #192 to H.R. 3354, which would prohibit the use of funds to carry out the Reproductive Health Non-Discrimination Amendment Act (RHNDA).**