

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 24, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi,

As you finalize the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, we write to request the maintenance of language to permanently repeal the Mexico City Policy, also known as the Global Gag Rule. Your support for this important policy priority, included in the House and Senate bills, is critical.

As a global health leader, our nation's investments in global health programs have a significant and sustained impact. In fiscal year 2021, U.S. international family planning and reproductive health assistance made it possible for 27.2 million women to receive contraceptive services, as well as prevented 12 million unintended pregnancies including 4.5 million unplanned births and 4 million abortions, the majority of which are provided in unsafe conditions. U.S. investments in international family planning also prevented 19,000 maternal deaths.<sup>1</sup> These numbers improve consistently and they are a triumph of U.S. leadership in global health. But this impact is blunted and oftentimes reversed by the Mexico City Policy. This harmful policy reduces access to vital global health programs including contraceptive information and services. It also increases the number of abortions performed, most in unsafe conditions. The Mexico City Policy fragments public health systems that are forced to limit their services in order to continue receiving desperately needed U.S. assistance, and it forces the U.S. to abdicate its role as a global leader in support of women's health and rights.

When President Biden rescinded the Mexico City Policy implemented under the Trump Administration, he restored assistance to global health programs that serve the most vulnerable and hardest to reach populations. President Biden's actions also allow health care systems to start recovering from four years of a dangerous policy that parses health care provision and denies access to lifesaving treatments to women, girls, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex (LGBTQI) individuals.

Unfortunately we cannot flip a switch and immediately recover from the effects of such a dangerous policy. New research from the Center for Research on Environment Health and Population Activities in Nepal demonstrates the difficulties in rescinding this policy.<sup>2</sup> Despite the policy being revoked in January, communicating the policy change to program implementers can be slow. As the report details, "most of the stakeholders... did not receive formal communications about the revocation of the policy from concerned organizations such as their central office or headquarters or US funding agency, such as USAID."

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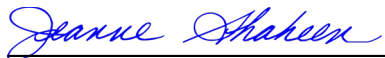
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gutmacher.org/just-numbers-impact-us-international-family-planning-assistance-2021>

<sup>2</sup> [https://crehpa.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Impacts-of-PLGHA-Policy-in-Nepal\\_CREHPA-2020-2021.pdf](https://crehpa.org.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Impacts-of-PLGHA-Policy-in-Nepal_CREHPA-2020-2021.pdf)

The Mexico City Policy undercuts access to voluntary and comprehensive family planning and reproductive health services and limits our efforts to end preventable maternal and child deaths, reduce mother-to-child transmission of HIV and combat gender-based violence. Permanently repealing the policy is also fundamental to our broader development goals, including women's economic empowerment by increasing women's ability to access education, employment and entrepreneurial opportunities, as well as creating a healthier, more sustainable environment.

We urge you to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity to permanently repeal the Mexico City Policy. Since it first went into effect in 1985, this partisan policy has been instated and rescinded, to the detriment of the most vulnerable people in the world. It is time to put an end to this deadly cycle. We urge you to prioritize the full and permanent repeal of the Mexico City Policy in the FY 2022 appropriations bill. We cannot let this moment pass us.

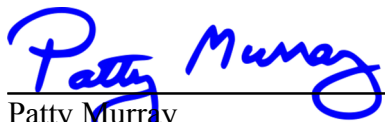
Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



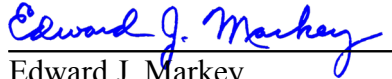
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator

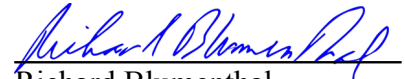



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator




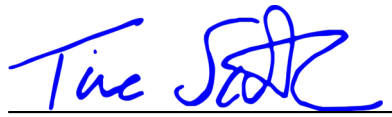
Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

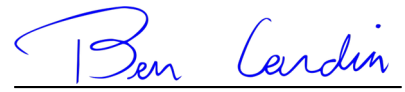
  
Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator

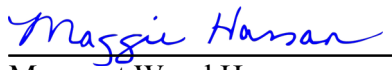
  
Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator

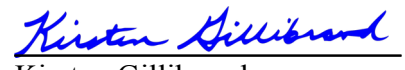
  
Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator

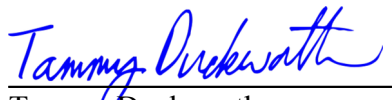
  
Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator


  
Tina Smith  
United States Senator

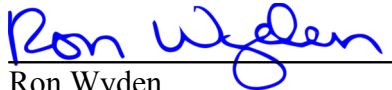
  
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator


  
Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator

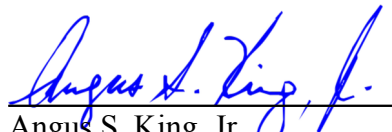
  
Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator

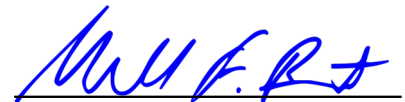
  
Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senator


  
Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator


  
Ron Wyden  
United States Senator


  
Jack Reed  
United States Senator

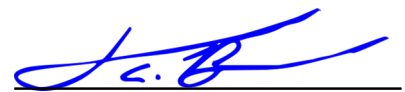
  
Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator

  
Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator

  
Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator


  
Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator


  
Jacky Rosen  
United States Senator

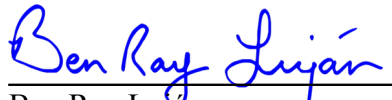
  
Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator


  
Martin Heinrich  
United States Senator

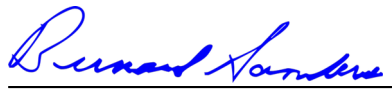
  
Mazie K. Hirono  
United States Senator

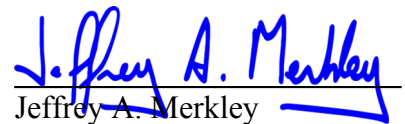
  
Gary C. Peters  
United States Senator

  
John Hickenlooper  
United States Senator

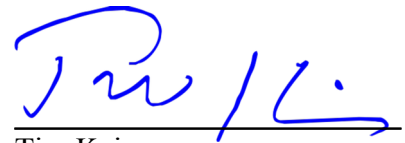
  
Ben Ray Lujan  
United States Senator

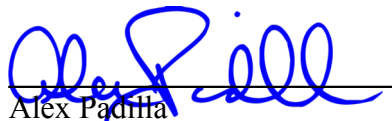
  
Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator

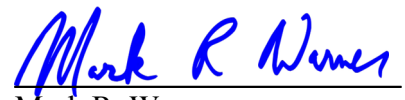
  
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator

  
Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator

  
Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

  
Tim Kaine  
United States Senator

  
Alex Padilla  
United States Senator

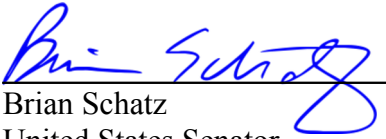
  
Mark R. Warner  
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto  
United States Senator



Kyrsten Sinema  
United States Senator



Brian Schatz  
United States Senator  
Ranking Member,  
Subcommittee on  
Communications,  
Technology, Innovation, and  
the Internet



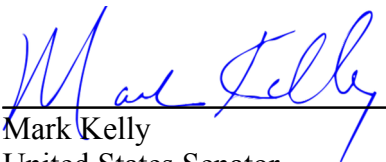
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



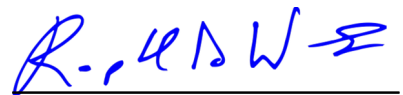
Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Thomas R. Carper  
United States Senator



Mark Kelly  
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock  
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



Jon Tester  
United States Senator

