

## **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives

January 28, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you begin your new administration pledging to foster unity and defend the truth, we respectfully ask you to reconsider your decision to discontinue the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy. PLGHA prevents taxpayer-funded global health programs from financing foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that perform, actively promote, or lobby for abortion as a method of family planning.

First established in 1984 by the Reagan Administration as the Mexico City Policy, this policy simply requires that foreign NGOs agree, as a condition of receiving federal funding, not to promote, lobby for, or perform abortion as a method of family planning. President Donald Trump reinstated and modernized this policy in 2017, applying it to all global health funds. PLGHA did not reduce the amount of federal funding available for global health and family planning programs by one cent.

PLGHA represents common ground: it allows the United States to fund global health without using taxpayer dollars to subsidize the work of groups that perform, promote or lobby for abortion. Abortion is not health care. It is never safe for the child: abortion is a brutal procedure that ends the child's life through suction, dismemberment or chemical poisoning. In addition, the child's mother deserves better than the tragic, irreversible consequences of elective abortion. United States foreign assistance should be life-affirming: we can support the health of both women and unborn children by providing essential obstetric care, nutritional aid and other humanitarian assistance to persons in need.

Americans overwhelmingly oppose using U.S. foreign aid to subsidize abortion. This week a Marist Poll found more than three in four Americans—77%—oppose using tax dollars to support abortions in other countries. This number includes 64% percent of individuals who identify as pro-choice.<sup>1</sup>

Many countries throughout the world have been besieged by aggressive and well-funded campaigns to overturn their pro-life laws and policies. PLGHA simply applies the common-sense view that the U.S. taxpayer should not be put in the position of funding foreign NGOs that perform or actively promote abortion, while respecting the national sovereignty of other nations.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Marist Poll. "Americans Opinions on Abortion." January 2021. <<u>https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/news-room/polls/kofc-americans-opinions-on-abortion012021.pdf</u>>

As the world continues to confront the deadly COVID-19 pandemic and its social and economic consequences, United States foreign assistance should be used for life-affirming health care rather than the promotion of the abortion industry. We respectfully ask you to reinstate the PLGHA policy.

Sincerely,

Christopher H. Smith Member of Congress

Kevin McCarthy House Republican Leader

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Republican Conference Chair

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Ann Wagner Member of Congress

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Vicky Hartzler Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx Member of Congress

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Steve Scalise House Republican Whip

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Hal Rogers Member of Congress

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