

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations
and Related Programs
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lowey and Ranking Member Rogers,

Thank you for your leadership in drafting the upcoming State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs (SFOPS) Act for Fiscal Year 2020.

As you know, President Trump has committed in writing to veto any legislation that undermines or nullifies any existing pro-life policy. Furthermore, a recent Marist poll indicates that the majority of Americans believe that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion. With this in mind, we ask you to retain all long-standing pro-life limitation amendments as bill text.

On January 23, 2017, President Trump reinstated and expanded the Mexico City Policy, redesignating it PLGHA. This policy affirms respect for unborn life by requiring foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOS) to agree, as a condition of their receipt of US federal grant money, to neither perform nor promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas.

On February 7, 2018, the State Department released a six-month review of PLGHA. At that point, PLGHA had been applied to 733 awards. Prime partners declined to sign in only four instances out of 733 awards, so approximately 99.5% of prime partners who had the opportunity to accept the terms of PLGHA did so. If a partner declines to agree to the terms of PLGHA and funds are redirected to other organizations, the level of funding available for that country remains the same.

US foreign assistance should invest in women's healthcare, not abortion. PLGHA does not reduce funding for international health assistance or family planning. The choice is up to these organizations, to either change their business practices, or forego federal funding. If NGOs choose to stop performing and promoting abortion, they can again be eligible for federal grant money.

On April 3, 2017, the State Department announced the determination that the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is ineligible to receive global health funds under the Kemp-Kasten Amendment, which precludes funding for organizations engaged in a coercive abortion program. UNFPA is infamous for its complicity in China's brutal birth limitation policy. It works in

partnership with China's National Health and Family Planning Commission, which responds to unauthorized pregnancy with coercive abortion and involuntary sterilization.

In 2016, China transitioned its "one-child-per-family" policy to a "two-children-per-family" policy. However, this revised state-imposed birth limitation does not eliminate the penalties that citizens face for violating the law. In China, reports of coerced abortions and sterilizations continue. According to the State Department's 2017 Human Rights Report on China, many provinces require women who violate the family-planning policy to obtain an abortion. Some provinces, including Hubei, Hunan, and Liaoning, declare this explicitly; other provinces refer euphemistically to "remedial measures."¹ Even in provinces that do not officially require abortions, local official may still choose to coerce women into obtaining them.

Providing any funding to UNFPA indirectly supports this appalling human rights abuse. Please continue to redirect funds to the Global Health Programs account for other family planning, maternal, and reproductive health activities. Redirecting U.S. foreign aid dollars sends a message that coercion is unacceptable and we will fund programs that provide true health care.

We request that you include the following language in the FY20 State, Foreign Operations bill:

UNFPA AND MEXICO CITY POLICY LANGUAGE:

XXXX(a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available for the United Nations Population Fund

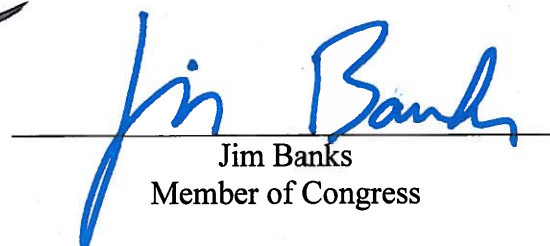
(b) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act for global health assistance may be made available to any foreign nongovernmental organization that promotes or performs abortion, except in cases of rape or incest or when the life of the mother would be endangered if the fetus were carried to term.

Thank you for your attention to these important issues.

Sincerely,



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress

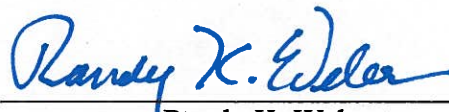


Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

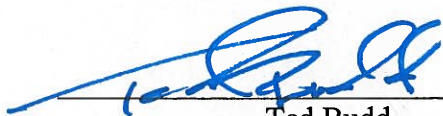
¹ <https://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/hrrpt/humanrightsreport/index.htm?year=2017&dliid=277073#wrapper>



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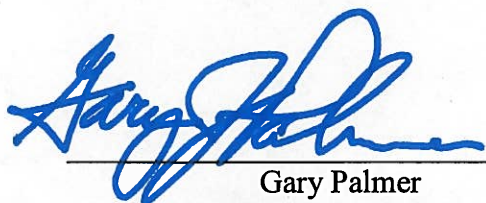
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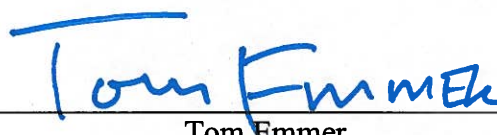
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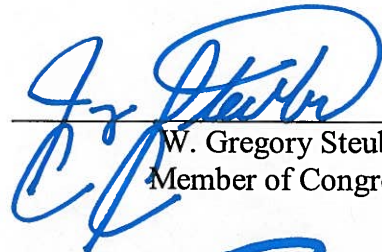
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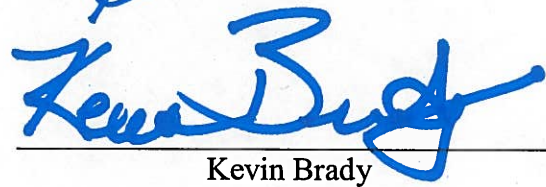
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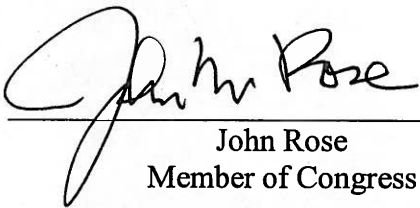
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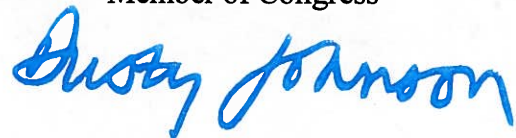
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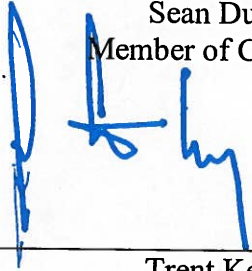
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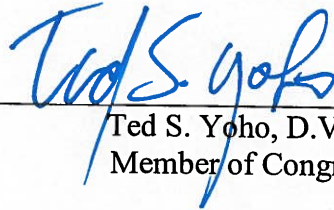
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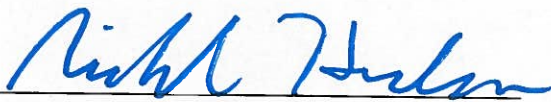
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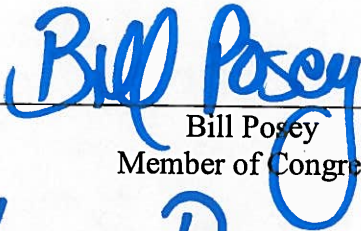
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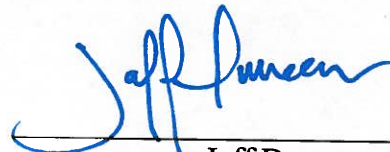
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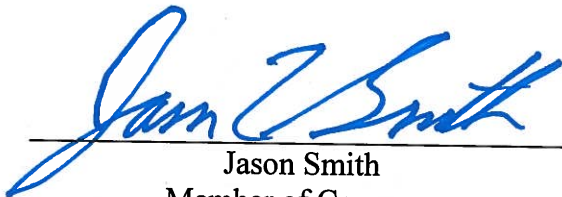
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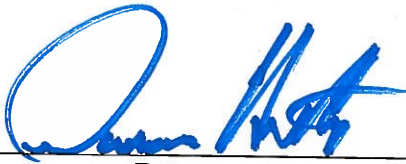
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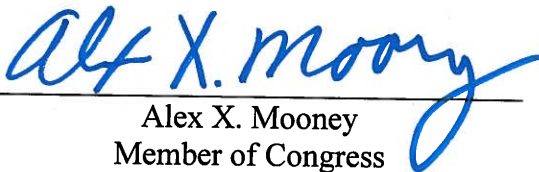
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