

# GLOBAL HEALTH, EMPOWERMENT AND RIGHTS (HER) ACT

## H.R. 556 AND S.142

The Global Gag Rule (also called the Mexico City Policy) is a dangerous and harmful U.S. foreign policy that blocks global funding for non-profits and clinics around the world that provide counseling and education on safe abortion. Despite that fact that no U.S. money ever goes to abortion services because of existing U.S. law, the Global Gag Rule means that organizations that receive U.S. International aid for maternal health, HIV prevention, or basic health must choose between receiving critical U.S. funding, or providing people with the sexual and reproductive health care and information they need and deserve.

The Global Gag Rule is deadly and ineffective.

- When Gag is implemented, abortion rates rise, not drop
- Rates of unintended pregnancies, maternal mortality, and unsafe abortions increase
- Women and girls lose access to contraception
- Humanitarian aid and critical health services are interrupted

While President Biden has rescinded the Global Gag Rule, without permanently repealing the policy, future presidents can reinstate the policy, interrupting health services and raising rates of maternal death. **We must permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule.**

The Global Health, Empowerment and Rights (HER) Act would permanently end the Global Gag Rule and would:

- Allow foreign non-governmental organizations receiving U.S. aid to use non-U.S. funds to address the specific needs of the population, such as HIV prevention and treatment and maternal and child health, so long as these activities are legal in the U.S. and in the respective country

- Promote safe, ethical medical practices by removing discriminatory restrictions on essential health care services

Passage of the Global HER Act would:

- Guarantee that U.S. foreign aid promotes health care that is free from stigma and discrimination
- Support and encourage democratic participation and freedom of speech abroad
- Encourage comprehensive reproductive health care, uphold a patient's right to informed choice, and respect the doctor/patient relationship

## AIUSA RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONGRESS

1. Congress should pass The Global Health, Empowerment and Rights Act (Global HER Act), S.142/H.R. 556.