
Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan first instituted the Mexico City Policy, prohibiting the availability of family planning foreign assistance funds to organizations that provide abortions, promote or counsel for abortions, or advocate to change abortion laws in a foreign country. Since then, the policy has been alternately rescinded and reinstated with successive administrations. President Trump reinstated this policy, renamed the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance (PLGHA) policy, to prohibit any foreign assistance funding from being granted to groups who perform abortions or promote abortion. The State Department under the Trump administration also expanded this policy by refusing to fund foreign NGOs that give money to other foreign NGOs engaged in the international abortion industry.

Senator Lee's *Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act* would codify the PLGHA policy into law, while strengthening its application. The bill specifically prohibits foreign aid dollars from being spent on abortion through subcontracts, in alignment with State Department guidance during the Trump administration. The bill also applies to funds provided to multilateral organizations, going a step beyond PLGHA. It additionally applies restrictions to domestic NGOs, closing a glaring loophole.

The *Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act* acknowledges the sanctity of life of all people, including the unborn in other countries, and ensures that U.S. citizens are not made complicit in overseas abortions under the guise of "foreign assistance" funding. The United States should administer its foreign aid programs with respect for the inherent dignity of each and every human life.

Americans are overwhelmingly opposed to their tax dollars being used to fund abortions. It is time that this policy be made permanent through congressional action, ending decades of disjointed executive branch policy.

Bill Specifics

Ensures that no federal funds may be made available to foreign or domestic NGOs or nonprofits, foreign multilateral organizations, or foreign quasi-autonomous nongovernmental organizations that:

- Perform or promote abortions, including by providing referrals or lobbying
- Furnish any item intended to procure abortions
- Provide financial support to any other entity that conducts abortion-related activities

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Katherine Thompson (katherine_thompson@lee.senate.gov) or Karina Mariotti (karina_mariotti@lee.senate.gov) in Senator Lee's office.