



PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT

The *Protecting Human Rights and Public Health in Foreign Assistance Act* (H.R.8582/S.4436) was introduced in the House of Representatives and the Senate on April 29, 2026. It will nullify Trump's expansion of the Global Gag Rule, prevent the federal government from implementing similar policies in the future, and make it as if the expanded Global Gag Rule never took effect in the first place.

EXPANDED GLOBAL GAG RULE

The new, radically expanded Global Gag Rule, ironically called "Promoting Human Flourishing in Foreign Assistance (PHFFA)", will apply to vastly more funding, entities, and programs.

PHFFA is comprised of three new rules, including "Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance," "Combating Gender Ideology in Foreign Assistance," and "Combating Discriminatory Equity Ideology in Foreign Assistance."

Because PHFFA defines these terms broadly, this policy will cause substantial reductions in healthcare services (such as gender-affirming care, HIV prevention, contraception, post sexual violence care and maternal care) for LGBTQ+ individuals, women, and other marginalized groups.

PHFFA also extends the application of the Global Gag Rule to all non-military foreign assistance programs, such as food, water, education, and sanitation aid, totaling almost \$40 billion in FY 2024 and causing major implications for humanitarian organizations that provide aid in natural disaster or war zones, for they would be prohibited to support groups that provide abortions or related reproductive services. PHFFA will also apply to US-based organizations, multilateral agencies like those affiliated with the UN and

foreign governments, in addition to international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs).

CONSEQUENCES

The Global Gag Rule already has and will continue to devastate global health infrastructure, leading to more deaths, especially among vulnerable populations. This policy violates human rights and conditions foreign assistance on ideological bases, restricting partner organizations and governments' freedom of speech and pressuring them to adopt the Trump Administrations' right-wing policies.

During the first Trump Administration, between 2017-2021, the implementation of the Global Gag Rule resulted in an estimated 108,000 maternal deaths and 360,000 new HIV infections. Those numbers are only going to increase under the expanded policy.


A study by the Guttmacher Institute looked at the effects of the Global Gag Rule during the first Trump administration in Uganda and Ethiopia, finding that the policy stalled and reversed previous advancements made in reproductive care by disrupting access to contraception, increasing unintended pregnancies. Coupled with reduced access to maternal health care, clinics, post-rape care, and HIV services, maternal mortality and unsafe abortion rates are bound to increase, not only in Uganda and Ethiopia, but in countries around the world that depend on US foreign health assistance. Considering these impacts, casting the expansion of the Global Gag Rule as "promoting human flourishing" is a complete contradiction and misrepresentation of what the policy actually achieves.



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THE SOLUTION

The Protecting Human Rights and Public Health in Foreign Assistance Act is very simple. It will nullify all three of the rules by barring the use of federal funding to implement any part of the policy.

Because the rules that make up PHFFA have already taken effect, the only way to prevent more damage to public health and human rights is to pass the Protecting Human Rights and Public Health in Foreign Assistance Act and nullify the expanded Global Gag Rule. This act is essential for protecting access to reproductive and family planning services abroad and ensuring that programs that protect LGBTQ+ rights and promote DEI continue to be funded. 

PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH IN FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT DETAILS

SENATE

- **Bill Number:** S.4436
- **Sponsors:** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

HOUSE

- **Bill Number:** H.R.8582
- **Sponsors:** Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL-22), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-1), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7), Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA-51), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY-5)

Source:

Evidence for Ending the Global Gag Rule: A Multiyear Study in Two Countries | Guttmacher Institute, 2024

Explained: What is the US global gag rule? – MSI Reproductive Choices, 2026