



FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE

ACTION ALERT

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Urge Congress to Support the Mexico City Policy

The Mexico City Policy (MCP) provides that no U.S. population assistance funds can be given to a nongovernmental organization unless it certifies that it will not perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning. The term abortion as a method of family planning does not include abortion to save the mother's life or in cases of rape or incest. Most international family planning groups agree to the policy. Pro-abortion advocates oppose the MCP because they are determined to spread the practice of abortion to Third World countries.

The MCP is an administration policy, first set forth by the Reagan Administration in 1984 at a population conference in Mexico City. The policy was overturned by President Clinton in 1993 but reinstated by President Bush in 2001. Abortion advocates have been conducting a campaign to reverse President Bush's action. In 2003 and 2005 the Senate approved an amendment by Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) to overturn the MCP. The Boxer Amendment never became law.

However, in 2007, the House of Representatives approved an amendment by Rep. Nita Lowey (D-NY) to negate the MCP, and the Senate again passed the Boxer Amendment. These amendments were attached to the Fiscal Year 2008 State Department/Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill (H.R. 2764). That bill has passed both House and Senate and awaits action by conference committee to resolve bill differences. After final approval, the bill goes to President Bush, who has stated that he will veto the bill if it weakens existing pro-life policies.

Please urge your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators to uphold the MCP. To find out how your federally elected officials have voted on this issue, please consult Vote Track at nchla.org/keyvotes.asp. Note the 2007 votes: House Key Votes 191 and 193 and Senate Key Votes 136 and 137.

In a letter to Congress, Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Pro-Life Activities, highlighted the origins and purpose of the MCP and made four observations: first, abortion does not plan a family but kills a member of the family; second, studies show that promoting contraceptives does not necessarily reduce abortions; third, when made available alongside preventive methods, abortion replaces prevention; and fourth, it is contrary to logic and common sense to say that we can reduce abortions by supporting groups dedicated to promoting abortion. For full text of the letter, see: nchla.org/docdisplay.asp?ID=164.

ACTION: Please contact your U.S. Representative and two U.S. Senators by U.S. mail, FAX letter, e-mail, or phone. Write: U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510. Call U.S. Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121, or call a Member's local office. For full contact information, see www.house.gov/writerep and www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm.

MESSAGE: Please support the Mexico City Policy and vote against any bill to overturn it. We cannot reduce abortions by funding organizations that perform and promote abortion.

WHEN: As soon as possible. President Bush has said he will veto H.R. 2764 if it weakens existing pro-life policies. 10/3/07; reissued: 10/18, 10/26