

In addition to what he has done at the legislative proposal level, he has asked the executive branch agencies to analyze their programs internally to see where they have reached out, to see what has worked and what has not worked and where they might expand that.

He also has a package for a charitable tax credit for nonitemizers, for example, something that the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. CRANE) pushed here for years, that I have had legislation as well, to try to expand the charitable credit that was in the bill of the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS) and Jim Talent that we have argued, that former Senator Dan Coats advocated in the Senate and worked with, because a tax credit that would put additional dollars into the charitable organizations that are having such an impact at the local level would be a major breakthrough.

What we have seen out of our new President is not just a talk that related to the campaign to try to win but a comprehensive blueprint of how to actually accomplish this in office. That is not something that gains necessarily a lot of votes. Not a lot of lobbyists come to our office saying, hey, we will financially support you if you just back this faith-based initiative thing.

It comes with a lot of controversy because a lot of people, rightly to some degree, fear that this could be over-extended, and they do not understand the full nature of this and the court limitations on it, and they are worried about religious liberty. But President Bush has stood up and said, this is too important, there are too many kids and families hurting in this country to continue to ignore the most effective way to reach many of these children who need our help.

I cannot say enough in praise of this initiative. I am excited about the Office of Faith-Based Initiatives. I am looking forward to the legislation that we will be bringing to the floor to work with this and to work with this office. This is a great morning in America today for many people who really need the help not only of the government but of their neighbors and the communities and the churches and others who can do so much to give them a chance in this wonderful free country.

ON THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PLATTS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my extreme disappointment that the global gag rule has been imposed on U.S. assistance to international family planning programs once again. On his second full day in office, President Bush reinstated this

Reagan-era restriction, gagging foreign private organizations from using their own funds to educate women and families about their full range of reproductive choices.

For decades, U.S. aid to family planning organizations overseas has helped these groups provide invaluable services for women around the world. Our Nation has a history of helping women educate themselves and to providing access to needed reproductive health services. I assure my colleagues that piling on restrictions to censor what foreign organizations can and cannot do with their own private funds is nothing to be proud of.

Each year in the developing world, nearly 600,000 women die from pregnancy-related complications. That is why our support for a full range of reproductive health services, including contraception, health workshops, counseling and maternal care becomes more important every day.

By imposing the gag rule, President Bush is taking away a woman's right to make decisions, decisions that affect her reproductive health, her emotional and physical security, and her family's future. President Bush is imposing his own values on foreign groups, and he is limiting these groups to providing only the services that get his seal of approval.

The truth is that family planning programs reduce the need for abortion. They promote safe motherhood and they increase child survival. Denying women birth control and counseling creates more unwanted pregnancies, more abortions, and more suffering. It is also a fact that more than 75,000 women die each year due to unsafe abortion. Without access to safe and affordable services, abortion will be less safe and will put more women's lives in danger.

I know that the women of this House are more committed than ever to protect the rights of women around the world. We have a responsibility to work to reduce the rate of unwanted pregnancy and improve the lives of women and children at home and abroad.

Implementing a global gag rule is not the way to meet this goal.

HONESTY AND GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, by reinstating the global gag rule as one of his first actions in office, President Bush quickly revealed how uncompassionate his conservatism will be. The gag rule will take money away from the world's poorest women and girls. This is not the action of a moderate.

The gag rule prevents doctors from giving the best medical advice to pa-

tients, it stops free speech, and it limits the effectiveness of family planning organizations. So this gag rule is not about preventing taxpayer dollars from being used for abortions, no matter what the President's spokesman says.

This is a significant point. Language is important. By using language that leads people to believe that the ban will stop taxpayer money from being used for abortions, the Bush administration gave a positive spin to a negative action. We need to call them on it. That is why many of us are on the floor tonight.

This is not about taxpayer money being used for abortion. It could not be. No American dollars have been used for abortions since 1973. That is the law of this country. The gag rule is about preventing organizations from giving good medical advice and care to patients. It coerces family planning clinics, doctors and organizations into sacrificing their right to counsel patients or even participate in democratic debates in order to receive U.S. funding for voluntary family planning services. It will stop much needed family planning funding from going to the organizations that provide the services that prevent abortions. It forces providers to make a terrible choice, give up desperately needed funding for family planning services or sacrifice their rights and responsibilities. Either way, women lose and the number of abortions, particularly illegal abortions, will rise.

The gag rule would be unconstitutional here in the United States, and it is unconscionable that among the first acts of the Bush administration was to reinstate it and impose it on the world's poorest women and girls. During the campaign, President Bush said that the United States should not appear arrogant in its foreign policy. Imposing limits on speech that would be unconstitutional here in the United States is the height of arrogance in foreign policy.

That is not to say that all the news is bad. I was pleased to hear that President Bush has committed to retaining the fiscal year 2001 funding levels for international family planning. That was a very welcome statement. I hope that when President Bush takes another look at the facts, he will recognize that his actions actually encourage the procedure he is trying to reduce.

We know that family planning reduces the need for abortions. We know that it saves lives. The gag rule reduces the effectiveness of family planning organizations and should be eliminated. I urge the President to revoke the gag rule. I applaud my many colleagues that have joined me in doing so.

GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to President Bush's decision to reinstate the Mexico City restrictions on United States assistance to international family planning organizations abroad. I also urge the Bush administration to stop misleading the American people by stating that American taxpayer dollars are being used to pay for abortions overseas. The truth is that since 1973, under the HELMS amendment, the United States has prohibited foreign recipients of international family planning aid to use taxpayer funds to perform abortions. Despite this fact, however, President Bush's press secretary, in his defense of the global gag rule, has continued to state that American taxpayer dollars are being used to pay for abortion services. This is just downright wrong.

President Bush's decision to reinstate the global gag rule will deny United States family planning assistance to any organization that uses its own, non-United States taxpayer funds to provide abortion services or engage in reproductive choice advocacy. This would be unconstitutional in our own country.

Each year, approximately 600,000 women die from preventable complications related to pregnancy and childbirth. Ninety-nine percent of these women are in developing countries. Complications from pregnancy and childbirth are the leading cause of death and disability among women aged 15 to 49 in the developing countries. Many of these deaths can be prevented by providing women with the means and the information to responsibly plan their families. United States funding provides family planning services and reproductive health education to families worldwide. So cutting funding for family planning diminishes access to the single most effective means of reducing the need for abortions.

Access to international family planning services is one of the most effective means of reducing the need for abortion and protecting the health of women and babies. Restricting funds to organizations that provide a wide range of safe and effective family planning services can only lead to more, not fewer, abortions. And limiting access to family planning results in high rates of unintended and high-risk pregnancy, unsafe abortions, and maternal deaths.

It is crucial that women across the world have fundamental access to health care. Our support of international family planning helps save lives. It promotes women's and children's health and strengthens families and communities around the world. By

denying these vital services, we deny women access to methods of contraception, leading to higher risks of getting and spreading the HIV/AIDS virus. Funding for family planning will help curb the spread of sexually transmitted disease.

I urge the Bush administration to really correct their misstatements about international family planning aid. If not, it is our duty as Members of Congress to stand up and inform the American people that the President's executive order will restrict funds to organizations that provide a wide range of safe and effective family planning services to women in need. Millions of women around the world are begging President Bush to reconsider this decision. I implore the President to consider the deadly ramifications of his decision and really help poor women in need of basic education regarding their health care.

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AID TO INTERNATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING SHOULD CONTINUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in coalition with my colleagues to express my deep concern and opposition to President Bush's recent declaration to discontinue the aid in family planning and to reinstate the global gag rule. In essence, this global gag rule restricts foreign, nongovernmental organizations that accept international family planning funds from using their own non-U.S. money to provide legal abortion services or to lobby their own governments for changes in the abortion laws. While this gag rule is simply bad policy, its consequences are extremely severe, affecting the health of women and families in some of the poorest and neediest countries under some of the direst of circumstances. These consequences have not been fully or accurately disclosed to the American people. At its best, this global gag rule will serve to undermine a key priority of United States foreign policy, to promote Democratic values worldwide. At its worst, it will block access to contraceptives, increase the incidents of illegal abortion and lead to higher maternal mortality rates. Instead of presenting these facts to the American people, President Bush provided the press with an attractive sound bite explaining his recent decision: Quote, I am opposed to American taxpayer dollars being used to pay for abortions overseas, end quote.

The statement is grossly inaccurate. As we know, the global gag rule is totally unrelated to the issue of taxpayers' funds being used for abortions. In fact, since 1973, under the Helms

amendment, the United States has prohibited the use of taxpayer funds from being used for the performance of abortions by foreign recipients of international family planning aid. That is nearly 30 years.

Before he was elected, George W. Bush said he wanted to change the way America thinks about abortion and he claimed to be a uniter and did a wonderful adroit dance around this issue every time he was asked. Nothing in his campaign suggested that he intended to take this step which, frankly, according to his words, he seems not to understand what he has done.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to not only express my strong opposition to President Bush's efforts to reinstate the global gag rule, but I urge the Bush administration to correct their misstatements about international family planning aid. The American people deserve to know the truth.

IN OPPOSITION TO IMPOSITION OF THE GLOBAL GAG RULE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mrs. MINK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong opposition to President Bush's decision to reinstate the anti-democratic Mexico City restrictions on U.S. assistance to international family planning organizations. Also known as the Global Gag Rule, this provision prohibits nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that receive U.S. family planning assistance from using their own private non-U.S. funds to provide counseling, referrals, or services related to abortion or to engage in any effort to change the laws of their country governing abortion.

This harmful provision will not prevent abortions—desperate women will still find a way to obtain an abortion. But the restrictions will help to make abortions more dangerous and will inhibit access to family planning and reproductive health services to the world's poorest and most powerless women.

International family planning programs provide vital services that improve women's health and mortality, improve child survival rates, and increase women's educational opportunities and earnings. Hundreds of thousands of women in the developing world—many of whom are young adolescents—die from complications of pregnancy or inadequate reproductive health care. Few of these girls and young women have equal rights, much less the abstinence option viewed by some in this body as the solution to unwanted pregnancies. The Global Gag Rule will cost women's lives!

Let's remember that it has been against U.S. law to use USAID funds for abortion or to promote abortion since 1973. The Global Gag Rule is a means of denying to women in other, poorer countries services that are legal in the United States even when these services are paid for with private funds.

The Mexico City restrictions even go so far as to prohibit NGOs from using their own