

Congressman Steve King today issued the following statement on news that President Obama will issue an Executive Order rescinding the Mexico City Policy. Originally implemented by President Reagan, the Mexico City Policy prevents taxpayer dollars from going to groups that provide abortions. Without this protection in place, foreign NGOs that actively promote or provide abortion are now eligible for family planning funds paid for by American taxpayers.

“President Obama’s decision is a dramatic step away from building a culture of life in America,” King said. “Despite his soaring campaign rhetoric of compromise and building bridges, the President tossed bi-partisan cooperation out the window to pay back the abortion lobby and those who embrace a culture of death. With our economy in recession, every single taxpayer dollar must be spent wisely, and this action sends your precious money to groups that promote abortion as a method of family planning. President Obama publicly committed himself to reducing abortions, but abortions will never be reduced through the promotion and funding of abortion. Today the President forced those of us who conscientiously object to abortion to pay for abortions overseas.”

Background:

- The Mexico City Policy was first implemented by President Reagan, rescinded by President Clinton, and then reinstated by President Bush.
- The policy requires that foreign nongovernmental organizations agree as a condition of receipt of federal funds for family planning activities that the organization will neither perform nor actively promote abortion as a method of family planning.
- Without this protection in place, foreign NGOs that actively promote or provide abortion are now eligible for U.S. taxpayer funded family planning activities.
- The Mexico City Policy ensures that U.S. bilateral family planning programs are not conduits for exporting abortion internationally. Without the Mexico City policy, U.S. taxpayer dollars spent for family planning contracts will line the pockets of foreign organizations who promote and provide abortion.
- Without this policy, foreign abortion advocacy groups will use U.S. taxpayer funds to establish operations and provide family planning services with one hand while promoting abortion with the other hand; thereby sending the message that

all of their activities bear the U.S. stamp of approval.

- The policy is not anti-family planning, it is anti-abortion. A policy against promoting abortion is only "anti-family planning" if one assumes that abortion itself is a method of "family planning."

- The policy does not reduce family planning funding. The policy does not take one penny away from the \$441 million the Committee has appropriated for global population assistance. On the contrary, the policy strengthens these programs by ensuring that they are not connected to abortion activities.