

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 23, 2010

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
128 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Inouye and Chairman Leahy:

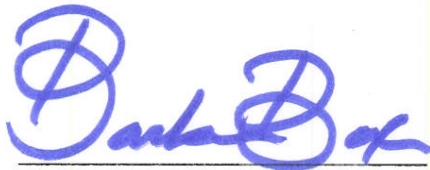
We are writing today to respectfully request that you include language in the Fiscal Year 2011 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriations bill codifying the repeal of the Mexico City Policy—also known as the Global Gag Rule—on family planning providers working overseas.

In short, it is time to permanently repeal the Global Gag Rule because it is the right thing to do. Not only will a permanent repeal reduce the number of abortions around the globe, it will help reduce the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and help prevent unintended or unplanned pregnancies.

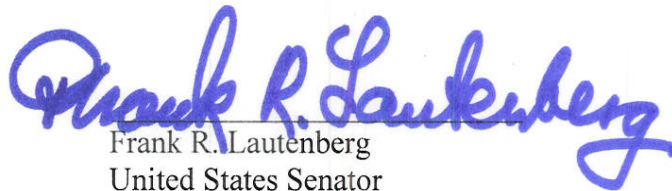
Furthermore, permanently repealing the Global Gag Rule will help establish greater certainty and continuity for reproductive health care providers. While we are pleased that President Obama rescinded the Global Gag Rule by Executive Order shortly after taking office, a permanent repeal in law would give reproductive health care providers working in difficult and often underserved regions around the globe the ability to plan for the long-term delivery of contraceptives and health care to the populations they serve.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to universal access to family planning and reproductive health care. We look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming weeks and months to permanently repeal this unjust, hurtful and ineffective policy.

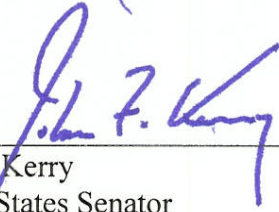
Sincerely,



Barbara Boxer  
United States Senator



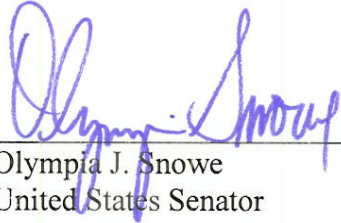
Frank R. Lautenberg  
United States Senator



John F. Kerry  
United States Senator



Barbara A. Mikulski  
United States Senator



Olympia J. Snowe  
United States Senator



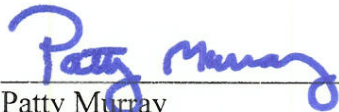
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



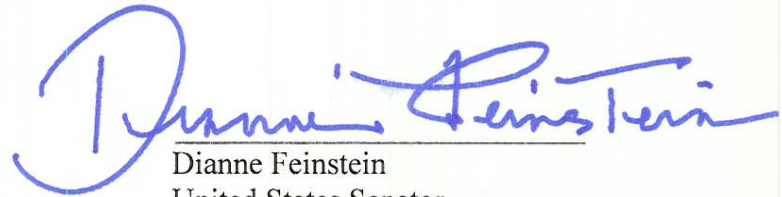
Carl Levin  
United States Senator



Daniel K. Akaka  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



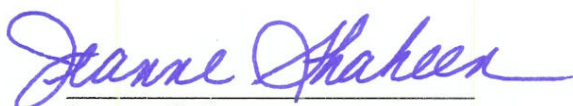
Christopher J. Dodd  
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand  
United States Senator



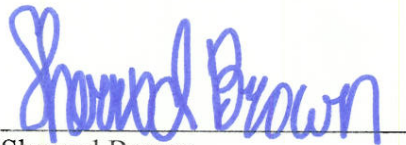
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



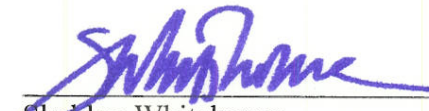
Russell D. Feingold  
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



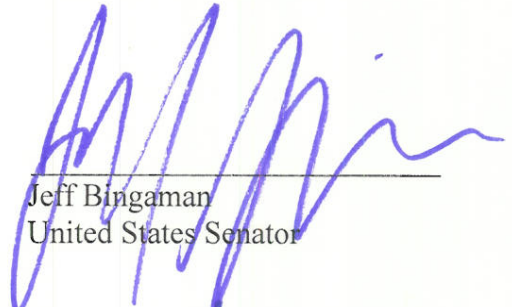
Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



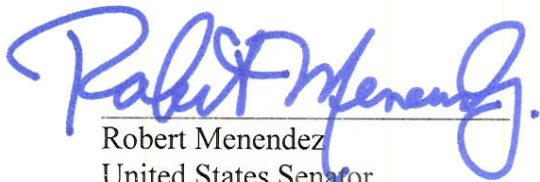
Mark Udall  
United States Senator



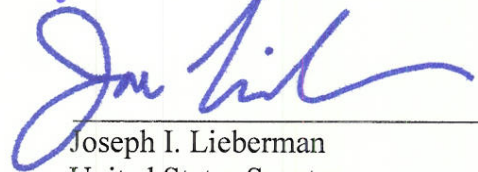
Mark Begich  
United States Senator



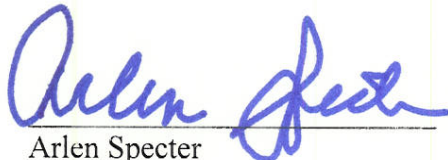
Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator



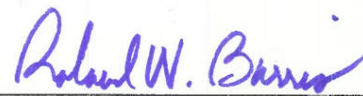
Robert Menendez  
United States Senator



Joseph I. Lieberman  
United States Senator



Arlen Specter  
United States Senator



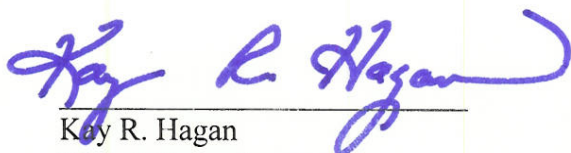
Roland W. Burris  
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator



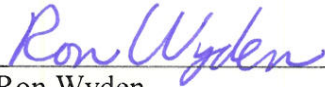
Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Kay R. Hagan  
United States Senator

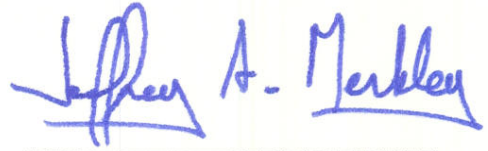


Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator



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Ron Wyden  
United States Senator



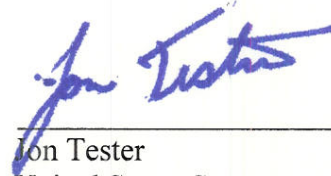
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Jeff Merkley  
United States Senator



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Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



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Jon Tester  
United States Senator