

To: *Planned Parenthood Federation of America*
From: *Hart Research*
Date: *February 28, 2024*
Re: *Key Findings from Survey on Global Gag Rule*

The findings included in this memo are from an online survey of 1,004 U.S. adults conducted by Hart Research from February 1-3, 2024.

Overview

The Global Gag Rule has been a volatile policy over the past 40 years with whichever administration is in the White House deciding to implement, expand, or rescind the policy. The most recently implemented version of the policy under the last administration stripped U.S. global health funding from providers who work in poor and developing countries, unless the provider agrees not to provide abortions or give women complete information about their full range of pregnancy options, even in countries where abortion is legal and abortion-related activities are undertaken with the organization's own private resources.

Key Findings

- 1. Americans express serious concerns about the impact of the Global Gag Rule and the range of consequences that the policy has on people all over the world.** In fact, when presented with eight different statements about the impact of these restrictions, more than two in three Americans express major concerns about each one.
 - Healthcare concerns are notably high, with 72% of Americans expressing major concerns (including almost half, 49%, saying very concerned) about bans like the Global Gag Rule leading to higher maternal mortality in countries where it is already the leading cause of death.
 - The impact of the Global Gag Rule on funding for programs unrelated to abortion concerns Americans, with almost three in four (74%) expressing major concerns about how the rule will impact funding for programs that prevent HIV/AIDS, improve children's nutrition, and combat tuberculosis.
 - With the end of the constitutional right to abortion in the United States, 70% of Americans are concerned about how the Global Gag Rule is part of a trend of denying women basic healthcare information and services around the world.
 - Western interference is also a concern for Americans, with 68% reporting they are majorly concerned with the U.S. government attempting to control people's bodies, lives, choices, and freedoms in poorer countries.
 - An important notable theme in these findings is that younger Americans (ages 18-34) and Americans of color are more likely to express major concerns about each of these eight impacts than Americans overall. For example, while 72% of all Americans express major concerns about the impact of the Global Gag Rule on basic health and safety,



77% of Hispanic adults, 72% of Black adults, and 75% of 18- to 34-years-olds say the same. Similarly, while 70% of all Americans have major concerns about the connection between the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on abortion and the Global Gag Rule, the engagement is even higher among these audiences, including 72% of Hispanic adults, 77% of Black adults, and 74% of 18- to 34-year-olds.

Read the statements below and indicate whether each one gives you very major concerns, fairly major concerns, some concerns, or no concerns

	Total Major Concerns	Very Major Concerns	Fairly Major Concerns
This policy has resulted in local organizations losing funding for programs that have nothing to do with abortion, including programs to prevent HIV/AIDS, improve children's nutrition, and combat tuberculosis.	74	46	28
Bans like these force women and girls to seek risky alternatives to safe and legal abortion, which leads to higher maternal mortality in countries where complications from pregnancy and childbirth are already a leading cause of death.	72	49	23
Experts have demonstrated that this policy leaves some of the most vulnerable people in some poor and developing countries without access to healthcare because no alternative healthcare provider was available, which puts people's basic health and safety at risk.	72	46	26
The Supreme Court ended the constitutional right to abortion in the United States in 2022, and we've seen how the results have put women here in devastating situations where they cannot access lifesaving healthcare services; we cannot allow this trend of denying women basic healthcare information and services to spread across the globe.	70	47	23
The Global Gag Rule is an example of a harmful legacy of wealthy countries,	68	43	25

including the U.S. government trying to control people's bodies, lives, choices, and freedoms in poorer countries.			
In some countries, this policy has resulted in a complete lack of access to voluntary family planning counseling in rural areas.	67	39	29
Policies like the Global Gag Rule that restrict access to reproductive healthcare hurt women's ability to pursue education and job opportunities and slow progress on goals like gender equality and reducing poverty.	67	43	24
Healthcare providers say this policy amounts to interfering with their relationship with their patients in other countries by restricting and limiting what information can be shared in a healthcare setting.	67	40	27

2. **Americans reject the Global Gag Rule.** In fact, fully 58% of Americans disapprove of it, including nearly one in three (31%) who strongly disapprove. Just 42% of Americans approve of the policy, with more saying they somewhat approve (24%) than strongly approve (18%). This 16 percentage point differential signals clear opposition.

- As noted in the table below, while Democrats and Independents disapprove of the Global Gag Rule by decisive margins, Republicans are divided. Almost half (46%) of Americans who identify as Republican disagree with the policy (54% approve).
 - Further, opposition to the Global Gag Rule is evident across nearly every other demographic divide, including gender identity, age, and educational attainment.

■ Strongly Approve
 ■ Somewhat Approve
 ■ Strongly disapprove
 ■ Somewhat disapprove

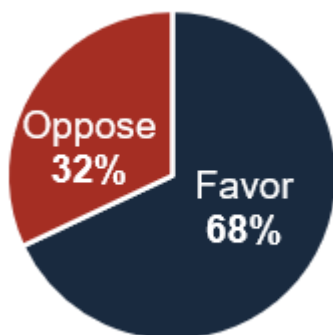


Do you strongly approve, somewhat approve, somewhat disapprove, or strongly disapprove of that policy?

	Approve	Disapprove
All Adults	42%	58%
Men/18-49	51%	49%
Women/18-49	47%	53%
Men/50+	38%	62%
Women/50+	31%	69%
Democrats	34%	66%
Independents	36%	64%
Republicans	54%	46%
Men/ Non-college	45%	55%
Women/Non-college	44%	56%
Men/College	47%	53%
Women/College	30%	70%

3. **By an overwhelming 36-point margin, Americans favor permanently ending the Global Gag Rule (68% favor, 32% oppose).**
- In fact, support for permanently ending the Global Gag Rule restriction is so broad that it extends across party identity demographics. Seventy-seven percent (77%) of Democrats and 71% of Independents favor ending the Global Gag Rule and a majority of Republicans (58%) also say they want to see this policy overturned in a lasting way that would allow U.S. funding to reliably provide women around the world with the full range of healthcare information and services that are legally available to them.

Would you favor or oppose permanently ending this policy so that global health programs that receive U.S. funding could reliably provide women around the world, and especially in poor and developing countries, the full range of healthcare information and medical services that are legally available to them in their own countries?



	Favor Ending the Policy	Oppose Ending the Policy
Democrats	77%	23%
Independents	71%	29%
Republicans	58%	42%