

*Changes in the Health Policy Landscape under  
the Trump Administration*



# Reinstatement of Mexico City Policy

- On January 23, President Donald Trump reinstated the Mexico City Policy via presidential memorandum.
- The policy requires foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to certify that they will not “perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning,” using funds from any source (including non-U.S. funds), as a condition for receiving U.S. government global family planning assistance and, as of Jan. 23, 2017, any other U.S. global health assistance.
- First announced in 1984 by the Reagan administration, the policy has been rescinded and reinstated by subsequent administrations along party lines. It has been in effect for approximately 17 of the past 32 years.

# Mexico City Policy

**Table 1: The U.S. Mexico City Policy Over Time**<sup>3</sup>

Years	In Effect?	Presidential Administration (Party Affiliation)	Executive (E) or Congressional (C) Action?
1985-1989	Yes	Reagan (R)	E
1989-1993	Yes	Bush (R)	E
1993-1999 Sept.	No	Clinton (D)	E
1999 Oct.-2000 Sept.	Yes*	Clinton (D)	C
2000 Oct.-2001	No	Clinton (D)	E
2001-2003	Yes	Bush (R)	E
2009-2017	No	Obama (D)	E
2017-present	Yes	Trump (R)	E

NOTES: Shaded blue indicate periods when policy was in effect. \* There was a temporary, one-year legislative imposition of the policy, which included a portion of the restrictions in effect in other years<sup>4</sup> and an option for the president to waive these restrictions in part; however, if the waiver option was exercised (for no more than \$15 million in family planning assistance), then \$12.5 million of this funding would be transferred to maternal and child health assistance. The president did exercise the waiver option.

# Mexico City Policy

- In addition to providing abortions with non-U.S. funds, restricted activities also include the following:
  - providing advice and information about and offering referral for abortion – where legal – as part of the full range of family planning options
  - promoting changes in a country's laws or policies related to abortion as a method of family planning (i.e., engaging in lobbying)
  - conducting public information campaigns about abortion as a method of family planning
- The policy, however, has not prohibited foreign NGOs from:
  - providing advice and information about, performing, or offering referral for abortion in cases where the pregnancy has either posed a risk to the life of the mother or resulted from incest or rape
  - responding to a question about where a safe, legal abortion may be obtained when a woman who is already pregnant clearly states that she has already decided to have a legal abortion (passively providing information, versus actively providing medically-appropriate information)

# Dismantling ACA

- President Trump signed a one-page order directing federal agencies to waive enforcement of large parts of Obamacare.
- Allows the head of the Department of Health and Human Services or any other agency with authority under the law not to enforce regulations that impose a financial burden on a state, company or individual.
- So broad that it could allow many of the law's provisions, including many of the taxes it imposes on insurers and the requirement that individuals buy insurance, to die from lack of enforcement.
- Health policy analysts have warned that repealing the unpopular parts of the law such as the taxes or individual mandate could lead to the collapse of the individual health insurance market. This executive order could allow those provisions to be rolled back before a replacement bill is ready.
- Republicans in Congress have laid out a number of broad road maps for a new health care law but have yet to reveal a specific bill that would show how many people will get insurance coverage or how much it might cost.