

NEWS RELEASE



Planned Parenthood®
Southeastern Pennsylvania

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Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania Applauds President Obama's Executive Order Overturning the Global Gag Rule

Earlier this afternoon, following the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, President Barack Obama took steps to make women's health a priority once again by signing an executive order overturning the Global Gag Rule which restricted U.S. funding for family planning services for organizations providing abortion services, and by doing so denied life-saving services to women across the world, including prevention programs in some of the poorest countries. Enacted during the Reagan administration, the rule was immediately overturned by President Clinton upon taking office, only to be reinstated by President George W. Bush.

"With the stroke of a pen, President Obama has lifted the stranglehold on women's health across the globe," said Cecile Richards, President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America. "His repeal of the Global Gag Rule ends eight long years of policies that have blocked access to basic health care for women worldwide. No longer will health care providers be forced to choose between receiving family planning funding and restricting the health care services they provide to women."

With the overturning of the Global Gag Rule, millions more women around the world will be able to gain access to critical basic services including safe abortion and birth control since thousands of health care providers that provide the full range of reproductive health care will once again be able to inform women of their full range of health care options, while others will be now be eligible for international family planning funding.

"Planned Parenthood thanks President Obama for taking immediate action on this critical healthcare issue, and for sending a strong, clear message about the new administration's commitment to reproductive-rights issues, both here and overseas," says Dayle Steinberg, President & CEO of Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania. "It is finally a new day for women's health."

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Planned Parenthood Southeastern Pennsylvania is the region's leading sexual and reproductive health care advocate and provider. We believe that everyone has the right to choose when or whether to have a child, and that every child should be wanted and loved. Planned Parenthood affiliates operate more than 880 health centers nationwide, providing medical services and sexuality education for millions of women, men, and teenagers each year. We also work with allies worldwide to ensure that all women and men have the right and the means to meet their sexual and reproductive health care needs.