

# GARIN HART YANG

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# RESEARCH GROUP

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Garin-Hart-Yang Research Group**  
**DATE: September 25, 2020**  
**RE: Key Findings from Survey on Global Gag Rule**

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*This memorandum outlines key findings from an online omnibus survey of 1,004 Americans conducted by Caravan Research from September 16 to 18, 2020.*

## Overview

Nearly three years after the administration's reinstatement and expansion of the "Mexico City Policy," commonly known as the "Global Gag Rule," this policy remains deeply unpopular with Americans. In fact, a strong majority of Americans oppose this restrictive policy and they express serious concerns about its wide-ranging, adverse impacts. By an overwhelming 40-point margin, Americans favor overturning the policy and ending these restrictions on U.S. foreign assistance.

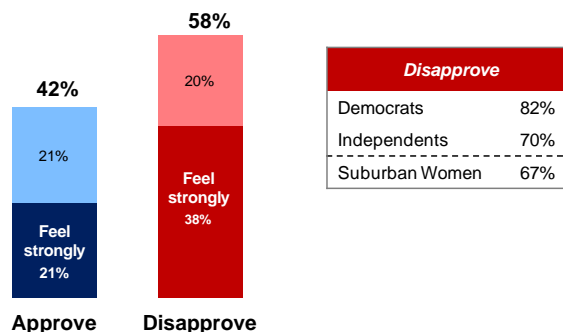
1. Fully 58% of Americans disapprove of the administration's 2017 reinstatement of restrictions on U.S. funding for international healthcare providers, commonly known as the Mexico City Policy or the Global Gag Rule, including 38% who say they object strongly. Just 42% support the policy, with only half (21%) of them saying they feel strongly about the issue. Notably, the Global Gag Rule is unpopular among audiences outside of core Democrats (82% disapprove), including suburban women (67% disapprove) and independents (70% disapprove).

## Strong Majority of Americans Disapprove of Global Gag Rule

Support for Global Gag Rule\*

\* Description prior to question:

"The Trump administration reestablished a policy--often referred to as the Global Gag Rule--that takes away all U.S. funding from healthcare providers who work in poor and developing countries, unless the provider agrees to not provide abortions or counsel women about their full range of options, even in countries where abortion is legal and available."



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2. Americans have serious concerns about the real-world consequences of the Global Gag Rule, as demonstrated in the table below. Mostly notably, Americans have significant misgivings about the impact of this policy during a global pandemic, which has the affect of limiting access to healthcare at a time when people need it most. Also of great concern are the dangerous consequences the policy has on already-vulnerable populations and the corollary restrictions it places on programs that have nothing to do with abortion.

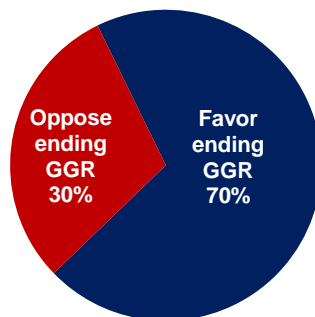
***In practice, this policy has many consequences. Some of the largest healthcare providers have lost their funding as a result of this restriction. Please read the statements below and indicate your reaction.***

	<b>Total Major Concerns %</b>	<b>Very Major Concerns %</b>	<b>Fairly Major Concerns %</b>
Leading public health experts point out that restricting access to healthcare in poor and developing countries is especially dangerous in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, when essential healthcare services are needed more than ever.	<b>71</b>	51	20
The State Department recently issued a report saying that the policy has left some of the most vulnerable people in some poor and developing countries without access to healthcare because no alternative healthcare provider was available, which means people lost access to life-saving vaccinations and other basic preventive healthcare.	<b>71</b>	50	21
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.	<b>70</b>	49	21
In some countries, for example Liberia and Togo, this policy has resulted in a complete lack of access to voluntary family planning counseling in rural areas.	<b>61</b>	39	22
Some people say this policy amounts to interfering with the relationship between healthcare providers and their patients in other countries by restricting and limiting what information can be shared in a healthcare setting.	<b>61</b>	39	22

3. By an overwhelming 70% to 30%, Americans favor overturning the Global Gag Rule so that funding can resume without restrictions. What is stunning is that even a 55% majority of self-identified Republicans support ending this policy, and they are joined by 84% of Democrats, 71% of independents, and 72% of suburban women.

## **Overwhelmingly, Americans favor ending the Global Gag Rule.**

*Would you favor or oppose ending this policy so that global health programs that receive U.S. funding could return to providing 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?*



<b>Favor ending Global Gag Rule</b>	
Democrats	84%
Independents	71%
Republicans	55%
Suburban Women	72%