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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Mexico City policy.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BIGGS submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred
to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Commemorating the 35th anniversary of the Mexico City
policy.

Whereas the United Nations held its second International
Conference on Population in Mexico City between August
6 and August 14, 1984;

Whereas the primary purpose of this conference was to dis-
cuss the implications of population growth in the devel-
oping world and to build on the findings of the first con-
ference on this topic, which met in Bucharest, Romania,
10 years before;

Whereas the United States was 1 of 147 member states of
the United Nations that agreed to participate in the con-
ference;

Whereas President Ronald Reagan, in a May 30, 1984, pre-conference message to Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado, expressed the belief that the challenges posed by significant population growth in many developing nations could and should be met in such a way as to “respect and enhance the freedom of the individual”;

Whereas President Reagan’s May 30, 1984, message continued: “We believe population programs can and must be truly voluntary, cognizant of the rights and responsibilities of individuals and families, and respectful of religious and cultural values. When they are, such programs can make an important contribution to economic and social development, to the health of mothers and children, and to the stability of the family and of society”;

Whereas President Reagan’s May 30, 1984, message culminated with the following statement: “Our concern over the dimensions of demographic change is inseparable from a concern for the welfare of children—who are the ultimate resource of any society.”

Whereas President Reagan selected then-former Undersecretary of State James L. Buckley to attend the International Conference on Population in Mexico City;

Whereas Ambassador Buckley addressed a plenary session of the conference on August 8, 1984;

Whereas Ambassador Buckley stated in this address that “the United States does not consider abortion an acceptable element of family planning program”;

Whereas Ambassador Buckley’s statement clarified United States policy along the following lines:

(1) “First, where United States funds are contributed to nations which support abortion with other funds,

the United States will contribute to such nations through segregated accounts which cannot be used for abortion.”.

(2) “Second, the United States will no longer contribute to separate nongovernmental organizations which perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other nations.”.

(3) “Third, before the United States will contribute funds to the UN Fund for Population Activities it will insist that no part of its contribution be used for abortion and will also first require concrete assurances that the UNFPA is not engaged in, and does not provide funding for, abortion or coercive family planning programs. Should such assurances not be possible, and in order to maintain the level of its overall contribution to the international effort, the United States will redirect the amount of its intended contribution to other, non-UNFPA family planning programs.”.

Whereas these proscriptions have come to be known as the “Mexico City policy”;

Whereas the Mexico City policy was continued by President George H.W. Bush and subsequently rescinded by President Bill Clinton in 1993;

Whereas the Mexico City policy was reinstated by President George W. Bush in 2001 and subsequently rescinded by President Barack Obama in 2009; and

Whereas the Mexico City policy was most recently reinstated, modernized, and renamed “Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance” by President Donald Trump: Now, therefore be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring), That Congress—*

1 (1) commemorates the 35th anniversary of the
2 Mexico City policy;

3 (2) expresses the hope that the Mexico City pol-
4 icy will be permanently codified in United States
5 law; and

6 (3) affirms the sanctity of life at all stages,
7 from the moment of conception to the moment of
8 natural death.