

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2024

Executive Board Members of the World Health Organization (WHO)

Excellencies,

We oppose the WHO's entry into official relations with the Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR), as per WHO Executive Board draft decision 155/7 Add.1, proposed for adoption at the 155th session of the Executive Board of the WHO which takes place on June 3-4, 2024.

The Center for Reproductive Rights (CRR) is a radical organization that manipulates international mechanisms to impose abortion on countries. Even though there is no internationally recognized human rights obligation with regard to abortion either by treaty or customary international law, CRR claims that such an obligation exists.

There are numerous examples of CRR colluding with UN staff and agencies to pressure countries through UN mechanisms as well as international and national courts. This is part of CRR's well-documented scheme to impose abortion on all countries, undermining sovereignty and bypassing all democratic processes.¹

When international mechanisms are manipulated to promote abortion, it undermines trust in international cooperation and goodwill towards international institutions. As you know, the American people already distrust global health institutions as a result of how the WHO handled the COVID-19 response. Many Americans believe the WHO cannot be trusted to protect their interests. Multiple bills have been proposed in the U.S. Congress scaling back support for WHO.

Promoting abortion globally is highly unpopular with the majority of the American People. Long-standing provisions in federal law widely supported by U.S. citizens expressly prohibit the use of U.S. foreign assistance funds to perform or lobby for abortion.² Over 64% of Americans strongly support this legislation, according to an annual Marist Poll.³

In fiscal year 2022, the U.S. government supplied the WHO over \$700 million, making it the single largest WHO donor. As members of Congress, we will look upon a decision to give special status to the Center for Reproductive Rights as evidence that the WHO is unreformable and as a further argument to withhold all funding to the organization.

We strongly urge you to reject the Center for Reproductive Rights' application to enter into official relations with WHO.

¹ See 149 CONG. REC. E2534-35 (daily ed. Dec. 8, 2003) (statement of Rep. Christopher Smith).

² Section 525 of the Foreign Assistance and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 1982 (P.L. 97-121; 95 Stat. 1657), approved December 29, 1981. This provision was incorporated most recently in FY2022 State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Act, 136 Stat. 576.

³ <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/marist-poll-results2024.pdf>

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Chuck Edwards
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



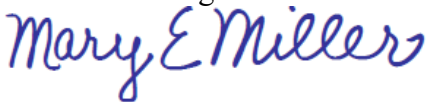
Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



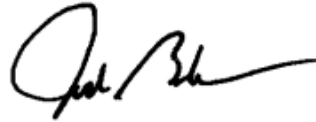
Keith Self
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Mary Miller
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Diana Harshbarger
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Josh Brecheen
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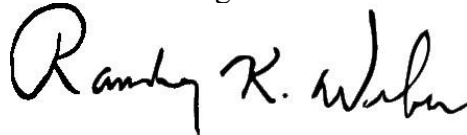
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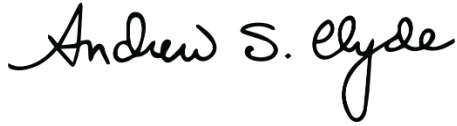
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Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Michael Guest
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Stephanie Bice
Member of Congress



Ben Cline
Member of Congress

cc: Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus,
Director-General of the World Health Organization (WHO)