To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the use of funds for comprehensive reproductive health care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BERA, Mr. BETTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARRAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. CASE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. CHU, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CRIST, Mr. CROW, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. DELAURE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GALLEGO, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. HINES, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAHELE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. KIAMA, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. KILMER, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MANNING, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. McGovern, Mr. McNERNEY, Ms. MENG, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MORRITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Miss RICE of New York, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. SARBAZANS, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SIRES, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. VElÁZQUEZ, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs.
To amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to authorize the use of funds for comprehensive reproductive health care services, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Abortion is a critical component of sexual and reproductive health care and should be accessible and affordable for all people.

(2) All people have the right to make their own choices about their sexual and reproductive health, and to access quality and affordable sexual and reproductive health care. International agreements have recognized reproductive rights for over 25 years, and the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals
reiterated the centrality of reproductive rights to
gender equality.

(3) Studies have repeatedly demonstrated that
when people, including young women and adolescent
girls, gender non-conforming individuals, and
transgender men, are able to control their reproduc-
tive lives, there are enormous social and economic
benefits—not just for the individual and their fam-
ily, but for entire communities. Countries that
prioritize reproductive health, rights, and justice and
human rights are more likely to have better overall
health throughout.

(4) Health system cost is reduced when abor-
tion is widely available and integrated with other
types of health care.

(5) Without access to safe abortion care, people
risk their lives to end their pregnancies. At least
24,100 people in low- and middle-income countries
die every year from complications from unsafe abor-
tion.

(6) Ninety-seven percent of unsafe abortions
occur in developing countries in Africa, Asia, and
Latin America. In low- and middle-income countries,
the annual cost of post-abortion care for all who
need it would be $4 billion. The majority of this cost
is attributed to treating complications from abortions provided in unsafe conditions.

(7) Restricting abortion does not reduce either the need for or number of abortions. Abortion rates are similar in countries where it is highly restricted by law and where it is broadly legal.

(8) When abortions are performed in accordance with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines and standards, there is minimal risk of severe complications or death.

(9) As part of their commitment to prevent unsafe abortions and preventable deaths and ensure all people have access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health care and can exercise their right to full control over their sexuality and reproduction, developing countries and donor governments must work collaboratively to deploy funding, align policies, and mobilize expertise to make safe abortion services available to those seeking to terminate pregnancies.

(10) United States law restricting United States foreign assistance funding from being used to provide safe abortion services has the effect of harming people who seek to terminate their pregnancies in several ways, including by blocking access to services and erecting barriers to providers obtaining the
training and equipment needed to deliver care to those in need.

(11) Since section 104(f)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151b(f)(1)) (commonly referred to as the “Helms amendment”) was enacted in 1973, dozens of governments across the globe have liberalized abortion laws and policies.

(12) In countries where the United States supports family planning and reproductive health care and in which abortion is legal on at least some grounds, support for safe abortion could avert over 19 million unsafe abortions and 17,000 maternal deaths each year.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

The following shall be the policy of the United States Government:

(1) Safe abortion is a critical component of comprehensive maternal and reproductive health care and should be included as part of foreign assistance programs funded by the United States Government.

(2) Safe abortion is to be made widely available and integrated with other types of health care.

(3) The United States Government should work to end unsafe abortion and promote safe abortion
services by providing funding and collaborating with
affected governments and service providers to pro-
vide training, commodities and equipment, and ac-
cess to safe abortion services.

SEC. 4. USE OF FUNDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REPRODUC-
TIVE HEALTH CARE SERVICES.

Section 104 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961
(22 U.S.C. 2151b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking paragraph (1); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and

(3) as paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively;

(2) by redesignating subsection (g) as sub-
section (h); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (f), as amend-
ed, the following:

“(g) USE OF FUNDS FOR COMPREHENSIVE REPRO-
ductive Health Care Services.—Notwithstanding
any other provision of law, funds made available to carry
out this part may be used to provide comprehensive repro-
ductive health care services, including abortion services,
training, and equipment.”.