

*New president launches abortion agenda*

## Obama Orders Funds to Pro-Abortion Groups; Senate Backs up Pro-Abortion Policy, 60–37

WASHINGTON (February 4, 2009)—As one of his first official acts, President Barack Obama signed an order to direct U.S. funds to organizations that perform and promote abortion overseas.

In a “presidential memorandum” signed on January 23, Obama overturned the so-called “Mexico City Policy,” a vital pro-life policy that had been adopted by President George W. Bush and by the two pro-life Republican presidents who served before him.

Under the policy, private organizations that performed or promoted abortion overseas were not eligible to receive funds under the U.S. foreign aid for “population assistance” or “family planning” programs, which total \$461 million this year.

NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson commented, “President Obama’s

order will put hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars into the hands of organizations that aggressively promote abortion as a population-control tool in the developing world. Much of this will consist of money diverted away from groups that do not promote abortion, and into the hands of those organizations that are the most aggressive in promoting abortion in developing countries.”

Johnson added, “When he was campaigning last fall, Obama told the American people that he would support policies to *reduce* abortions, but by issuing this order, he effectively guaranteed more abortions by funding groups that are ideologically committed to the doctrine that abortion on demand must be universally available as a birth control method.”

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*Pro-abortion President Barack Obama's "presidential memorandum" overturned the pro-life Mexico City Policy.*

## Legislation Requiring Ultrasounds Major Pro-Life Priority

By DAVE ANDRUSKO

Sometimes it takes a while before the full import of a Supreme Court decision is fully understood. Take *Roe v. Wade* ... please. It was not for a number of years after the 1973 decision that it became crystal clear the Court said what it meant, and meant what it said: essentially abortion on demand, for any reason, or no reason, throughout all 50 states.

In its 1992 *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* decision, at the same time it reaffirmed the “core” holdings of *Roe*, the justices opened the door a crack to commonsense legislation. In the 16 years since, states have passed a variety



*Joining NRLC State Legislative Director Mary Spaulding Balch at Nebraska Walk for Life was (left to right) LB 675 sponsor state Senator Tony Fulton, Governor Dave Heineman, Mary, and Attorney General Jon Bruning.*

of informed consent/Woman's Right to Know laws intended to ensure that a woman's decision whether to abort is a measured, not emotional, one.

The results when women are told the truth about their unborn child, about alternatives, and about the anguish they may experience in the aftermath of a decision taken for death is that they often choose life. Not surprisingly, pro-abortionists fight such laws with a fiery passion, as hot as it is illogical. Aren't they for “choice”?

The latest front in the ongoing struggle to give women a real “choice” is the use of ultrasound. “Sixteen states have laws

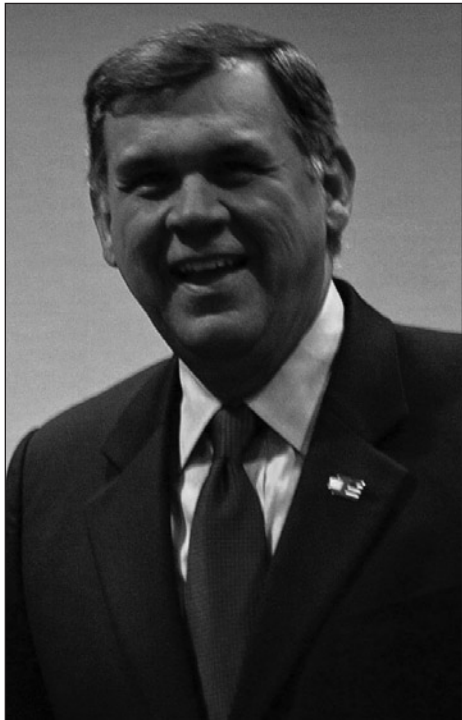
See *ULTRASOUNDS*, page 5

## Pro-Abortion Policy

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Johnson noted that one of the most militant abortion-promoting organizations, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, estimated that it lost at least \$100 million during the Bush Administration because it would not agree to the Mexico City Policy.

“Obama’s January 23 order is only the first in an anticipated series of attacks



*Pro-life Sen. Mel Martinez (R-Fl.)*

on longstanding pro-life policies, as the new administration pushes Obama’s sweeping abortion agenda,” Johnson said. “That agenda includes repeal of the Hyde Amendment, which would result in tax-funded abortion as a birth control method in the U.S., and imposition of sweeping pro-abortion mandates on private employers through health-care reform legislation.” (See “Obama Administration, New Congress Poised to Push Broad Pro-Abortion Agenda,” January 2009 *NRL News*, page 1, and updates at [www.nrlc.org](http://www.nrlc.org).)

The pro-life policy on foreign aid was originally adopted by President Reagan in 1984 and formally announced at a UN-sponsored conference in Mexico City—hence the name “Mexico City Policy.” It was continued by President George H.W. Bush, overturned by President Bill Clinton, and restored by President George W. Bush.

Basically, the policy required grantees to refrain from performing abortions (except to save the life of the mother, or in cases of rape or incest), or lobbying to legalize abortion, or otherwise promoting abortion as a birth-control method. Critics disparaged the policy as a “global gag rule.”

Obama’s January 23 “presidential memorandum” was addressed to the Secretary of State and to the Administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the agency that administers many U.S. foreign aid programs. Obama said that the ban on funding of nongovernmental organizations that “engage in a wide range of activities, including providing advice, counseling, or information regarding abortion, or lobbying a foreign government to legalize or make abortion available” constituted “excessively broad conditions” on U.S. aid—conditions that he characterized as “unwarranted.”

Ten days after President Obama took



*Pro-abortion Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Ca.)*

office, the Gallup firm conducted a national poll to measure public approval for a number of his most widely publicized policy initiatives. The Gallup firm reported on February 2, “Obama’s decision to reverse the prohibition on

funding for overseas family-planning providers may be the least popular thing he has done so far. This [policy overturned by Obama] was an executive order that forbade federal government money from going to overseas family-planning groups that provide abortions or offer abortion counseling. Fifty-eight percent of Americans disapprove of Obama’s decision to lift this ban, while only 35% approve of it.”

### Senate Vote

On January 28, the U.S. Senate voted to back up Obama’s action. During consideration of an unrelated bill, pro-life Senator Mel Martinez (R-Fl.) offered an amendment to reverse the Obama order, and restore a ban on U.S. funding of any overseas organization “that performs or actively promotes abortion as a method of birth control.” The amendment, which was supported by NRLC, failed on a vote of 60 to 37 (see roll call, page 22).

Only one Democrat voted in favor of the pro-life amendment (Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska), which was supported by all but four of the Republican senators.

Regarding the Obama order, Martinez said, “I’m disappointed in the President’s decision to reverse this policy. . . . Internationally, this policy reversal allows U.S. tax dollars to go to organizations that have agendas directly counter to the societal and cultural values of their host nations. The result will be damaged relations with those countries and a reversal of the significant progress made in recent years in creating a culture that respects life at home and abroad.”

Speaking in support of the Martinez amendment, Senator Sam Brownback (R-Ks.) noted that in “a lot of places, it [the Obama policy] does not make any sense . . . in Latin American countries, African countries that are very strongly pro-life, in many cases, we are supporting policies or groups or institutions that are promoting abortion. . . . I simply point out that this does not help us in foreign policy. This certainly does not help the budget deficit or the debt. This certainly does not stimulate the economy.”

But pro-abortion Senator Barbara Boxer (D-Ca.) celebrated Obama’s order, saying, “With President Obama, this is

just the start of the changes he will bring that will help women . . .”

In the same vein, Nancy Northup, president of the Center for Reproductive Rights, commented, “President Obama has taken a tremendous step in righting the wrongs perpetrated against women around the world by the Bush administration,”



*Pro-life Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ)*

and in the same breath, called for further pro-abortion actions by the new Administration, including elimination of the Hyde Amendment and a restoration of U.S. funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).

NRLC’s Johnson noted that despite Obama’s order and the Senate vote, the direct use of the U.S. funds to perform abortion procedures will remain unlawful under a law known as the Helms Amendment to the Foreign Assistance Act.

“The Helms Amendment can be changed only by an act of Congress, but because the Obama Administration is joined at the hip with the abortion lobby, we will be watching carefully for any evidence that the Administration is failing to enforce the Helms Amendment,” Johnson said.

# U.S. Senate agrees with Obama order funding abortion groups, 60-37

Shown below is the January 28, 2009 roll call by which the U.S. Senate expressed agreement with a January 23 order by President Barack Obama, directing U.S. funds to organizations that perform and promote abortion in foreign countries.

Under a pro-life policy adopted by President George W. Bush, known as the "Mexico City Policy," private overseas organizations that performed or promoted abortion overseas were not eligible to receive funds under

the U.S. foreign aid program for "population assistance." However, Obama's January 23 order nullified this pro-life policy.

On January 28, during consideration of an unrelated bill, pro-life Senator Mel Martinez (R-Fl.) offered an amendment that, if enacted, would have made the previous pro-life policy permanent, thereby nullifying Obama's order. NRLC strongly supported the Martinez Amendment, but it failed, 37 to 60 (Senate roll call no. 19).

On this roll call, the pro-life amendment was supported by 36 Republicans and one Democrat; it was opposed by four Republicans and 56 Democrats. On this date, two senators were absent, and one Senate seat was vacant.

For further details on the Obama order and the Senate debate, see the story that begins on page one of this issue.

## KEY

- X Pro-life vote (in support of Mexico City Policy)
- O Pro-abortion vote (against Mexico City Policy)
- ? Absent or not voting

<b>Alabama</b>		<b>Indiana</b>		<b>Nebraska</b>		<b>South Carolina</b>	
Richard Shelby (R)	X	Richard Lugar (R)	X	Mike Johanns (R)	X	Lindsey Graham (R)	X
Jeff Sessions (R)	X	Evan Bayh (D)	O	Ben Nelson (D)	X	Jim DeMint (R)	X
<b>Alaska</b>		<b>Iowa</b>		<b>Nevada</b>		<b>South Dakota</b>	
Mark Begich (D)	O	Charles Grassley (R)	X	Harry Reid (D)	O	Tim Johnson (D)	O
Lisa Murkowski (R)	O	Tom Harkin (D)	O	John Ensign (R)	X	John Thune (R)	X
<b>Arkansas</b>		<b>Kansas</b>		<b>New Hampshire</b>		<b>Tennessee</b>	
Blanche Lincoln (D)	O	Sam Brownback (R)	X	Judd Gregg (R)	X	Lamar Alexander (R)	X
Mark Pryor (D)	O	Pat Roberts (R)	X	Jeanne Shaheen (D)	O	Bob Corker (R)	X
<b>Arizona</b>		<b>Kentucky</b>		<b>New Jersey</b>		<b>Texas</b>	
John McCain (R)	X	Mitch McConnell (R)	X	Frank Lautenberg (D)	O	Kay Bailey Hutchison (R)	X
Jon Kyl (R)	X	Jim Bunning (R)	X	Robert Menendez (D)	O	John Cornyn (R)	X
<b>California</b>		<b>Louisiana</b>		<b>New Mexico</b>		<b>Utah</b>	
Dianne Feinstein (D)	O	Mary Landrieu (D)	O	Tom Udall (D)	O	Orrin Hatch (R)	X
Barbara Boxer (D)	O	David Vitter (R)	X	Jeff Bingaman (D)	O	Robert Bennett (R)	X
<b>Colorado</b>		<b>Maine</b>		<b>New York</b>		<b>Vermont</b>	
Michael Bennet (D)	O	Olympia Snowe (R)	O	Charles Schumer (D)	O	Patrick Leahy (D)	O
Mark Udall (D)	O	Susan Collins (R)	O	Kirsten Gillibrand (D)	O	Bernard Sanders (I)	O
<b>Connecticut</b>		<b>Maryland</b>		<b>North Carolina</b>		<b>Virginia</b>	
Christopher Dodd (D)	O	Barbara Mikulski (D)	O	Kay Hagan (D)	O	Mark Warner (D)	O
Joseph Lieberman (I)	O	Benjamin Cardin (D)	O	Richard Burr (R)	X	James Webb (D)	O
<b>Delaware</b>		<b>Massachusetts</b>		<b>North Dakota</b>		<b>Washington</b>	
Ted Kaufman (D)	O	Edward Kennedy (D)	?	Kent Conrad (D)	O	Patty Murray (D)	O
Thomas Carper (D)	O	John Kerry (D)	O	Byron Dorgan (D)	O	Maria Cantwell (D)	O
<b>Florida</b>		<b>Michigan</b>		<b>Ohio</b>		<b>West Virginia</b>	
Bill Nelson (D)	O	Carl Levin (D)	O	George Voinovich (R)	X	Robert Byrd (D)	O
Mel Martinez (R)	X	Debbie Stabenow (D)	O	Sherrod Brown (D)	O	John Rockefeller (D)	O
<b>Georgia</b>		<b>Minnesota</b>		<b>Oklahoma</b>		<b>Wisconsin</b>	
Saxby Chambliss (R)	?	Amy Klobuchar (D)	O	James Inhofe (R)	X	Herbert Kohl (D)	O
Johnny Isakson (R)	X	(one seat vacant)		Tom Coburn (R)	X	Russ Feingold (D)	O
<b>Hawaii</b>		<b>Mississippi</b>		<b>Oregon</b>		<b>Wyoming</b>	
Daniel Inouye (D)	O	Thad Cochran (R)	X	Ron Wyden (D)	O	Michael Enzi (R)	X
Daniel Akaka (D)	O	Roger Wicker (R)	X	Jeff Merkley (D)	O	John Barrasso (R)	X
<b>Idaho</b>		<b>Missouri</b>		<b>Pennsylvania</b>			
Jim Risch (R)	X	Christopher Bond (R)	X	Arlen Specter (R)	O		
Mike Crapo (R)	X	Claire McCaskill (D)	O	Robert Casey (D)	O		
<b>Illinois</b>		<b>Montana</b>		<b>Rhode Island</b>			
Richard Durbin (D)	O	Max Baucus (D)	O	Jack Reed (D)	O		
Roland Burris (D)	O	Jon Tester (D)	O	Sheldon Whitehouse (D)	O		