

**The Helms Amendment: An anti-rights and racist policy that must be repealed**

*Support for the Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act*

**Handles**

**Sponsor:** Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL): @janschakowsky

**Bill Co-leads**

Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA): @RepBarbaraLee

Rep. Jackie Speier (D-CA): @RepSpeier

Rep. Ayanna Pressley (D-MA): @RepPressley

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO): @RepDianaDeGette

Rep. Norma Torres (D-CA): @NormaJTorres

Rep. Marilyn Strickland (D-WA): @RepStricklandWA

**Hashtags:**

**Primary:** #RepealHelms

**Secondary:** #HelmsHurts #HelmsAmendment

**Link to Graphics**: [RepealHelms\_SocialMedia\_General](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ic4RcCFmgU4Aq_CsllsSr9znJOFrScI3?usp=sharing)

**Social Media Posts**

**Twitter**

***Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act***

Thank you @RepSchakowsky @RepDianaDeGette @RepSpeier @RepBarbaraLee @RepPressley @NormaJTorres @RepStricklandWA for your leadership to repeal the Helms Amendment that has harmed communities around the world. Everyone deserves the safety and dignity of basic health care. #RepealHelms

The Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act is the first standalone legislation to repeal the harmful #HelmsAmendment. It is time for the US to truly protect and promote the #reprohealth and #reprorights of people everywhere.

FACT: For nearly 50 years, #HelmsAmendment has controlled Black & brown bodies through US funding. It’s time for that to stop. The Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act is the first legislation to repeal the harmful US policy. Let’s work together and #RepealHelms

Polling shows US voters support changing policies so global #reprohealth programs receiving funds can help people overseas access abortion services. The Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act would do just that. #AbortionIsHealtcare [*https://bit.ly/39s8Hxb*](https://bit.ly/39s8Hxb)

Everyone should be able to access #reprohealth care—no matter who they are or where they live. Global #reprohealth programs receiving U.S funds should help people overseas access abortion services. The Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act would do just that. #AbortionIsEssential

***The Helms Amendment***

The #HelmsAmendment hinders millions of individuals around the world from being able to exercise their #bodilyautonomy and #reprorights depriving them of the care they want and need. #RepealHelms [www.repealhelms.org](http://www.repealhelms.org)

Annually, there are more than 35 million unsafe abortions worldwide that lead to millions of injuries and tens of thousands of preventable maternal deaths. The #HelmsAmendment exacerbates this crisis. #RepealHelms [www.repealhelms.org](http://www.repealhelms.org)

The Helms Amendment was introduced in direct response to Roe v. Wade to oppress and control the bodies of Black and brown people across the globe using the power of US funding. It’s time to end Helms.  #RepealHelms [www.repealhelms.org](http://www.repealhelms.org)

If people -- no matter who they are or where they live -- don’t have the right to make fundamental decisions about their own bodies and health, they can’t fully enjoy the human rights to which all people are entitled. #RepealHelms [www.repealhelms.org](http://www.repealhelms.org)

The Helms Amendment:

❌ creates significant barriers to safe and legal health care globally

❌ stigmatizes abortion

❌ undermines our ability to advance health, human rights, and gender equality

It’s time! This cruel policy has got to go. #RepealHelms

FACT:

✔️More than three in four voters say people—no matter who they are or where they live— should have access to #reprohealth care, including abortion.

✔️A majority of US voters favor overturning the #HelmsAmendment

#Repeal Helms

If the US were to #RepealHelms, there would be 17,000 fewer maternal deaths & 12 million fewer women who have abortion-related complications requiring medical treatment each year. #HelmsHurts <https://bit.ly/3bwZILU>

**Instagram**

Post 1:

FACT: For nearly 50 years, #HelmsAmendment has controlled Black & brown bodies through US funding. It’s time for that to stop. The Abortion is Health Care Everywhere Act is the first legislation to repeal the harmful US policy. Let’s work together and #RepealHelms

Post 2:

Haven’t heard of the Helms Amendment before?

No worries, here are the highlights (re: lowlights):

* Created by a white supremacist in the 1970s
* Rooted in racism and colonialism
* Deprives people around the world of receiving the health care they need
* Results in millions of women dying from unsafe abortions because they cannot access sexual and reproductive health services.

**Facebook**

The Helms Amendment was introduced in direct response to Roe v. Wade to oppress and control the bodies of Black and brown people across the globe using the power of US funding. This harmful policy must fall for any vision of health equity and reproductive justice to be realized. If the US government is serious about fighting white supremacy, they must repeal the Helms Amendment.

New @Guttmacher research finds that if the Helms Amendment were to be repealed and health systems around the globe were supported by US policy, there would be at least 19 million fewer unsafe abortions and 17,000 fewer maternal deaths each year. #RepealHelms #HelmsHurts

 <https://bit.ly/3bwZILU>

**Resources**

[The Ins and Outs of U.S. Abortion-related Restrictions Abroad and at Home (PAI)](https://pai.org/policy-briefs/the-ins-and-outs-of-u-s-abortion-related-restrictions-abroad-and-at-home/)

[Helms Amendment and the Global Gag Rule — What’s the Difference?](https://pai.org/resources/helms-amendment-and-the-global-gag-rule-whats-the-difference/)(PAI)

[Time Is Up for the Helms Amendment (PAI)](https://pai.org/resources/time-is-up-for-the-helms-amendment/)

[Report Summary: All Women, All Rights, Sex Workers Included (CHANGE)](https://srhrforall.org/download/report-summary-all-women-all-rights-sex-workers-included/?wpdmdl=1514&refresh=5ef79f6254b461593286498)

[New Polling Shows Majority of Voters Favor Overturning Helms. (downloadable PDF) (Ipas)](https://www.ipas.org/resources/new-polling-shows-majority-of-voters-favor-overturning-helms)

[Key Messages on the Harms of the Helms Amendment and the Case for Repeal (downloadable PDF) (Ipas)](https://www.ipas.org/resources/key-messages-on-the-harms-of-the-helms-amendment-and-the-case-for-repeal)

[The Harmful Impact of the Helms Amendment on Women in Kenya (downloadable PDF) (Ipas)](https://www.ipas.org/resources/the-harmful-impact-of-the-helms-amendment-on-women-in-kenya)

[Video: Time to put lives over politics: Repeal the Helms Amendment](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fOdjpuO-QzY&feature=emb_logo) (Ipas)

February 2021 resource: [The Case for Ending the “Global Gag Rule” and the Helms Amendment](https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2021/02/case-ending-global-gag-rule-and-helms-amendment) (Guttmacher)

**Handles: International Family Planning Coalition Partners**

Advocates for Youth: @AdvocatesTweets

American Jewish World Service: @ajws

Catholics for Choice: @Catholic4Choice

Center for Reproductive Rights: @ReproRights

Guttmacher: @Guttmacher

ICRW: @ICRW

Ipas: @IpasOrg

IWHC: @IntlWomen

NARAL: @NARAL

PAI: @pai\_org

Population Connection Action Fund: @popconnect

Population Institute: @PopInstitute

Planned Parenthood: @ppglobe, @ppact