

What will happen to \$600 million Congress appropriated for family planning? *Devex*,
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Family feud

You could view the ironclad backing that Republicans in Congress have given Trump as politically shrewd. After all, there's power in party unity. Critics view it as kowtowing and unconditional surrender.

That's why the [\\$50 billion bill](#) Congress passed earlier this year for foreign affairs spending — far more generous than what Trump sought — is so notable. Perhaps even more notable is a **\$600 million carveout** within that package **for, of all things, family planning and reproductive health** — a political hot potato because it deals with abortion.

That makes it a big no-go for this administration and Republicans writ large. Trump has made his opposition clear by, among other moves, withdrawing from [UN Women](#) and the [U.N. Population Fund](#), and expanding the Mexico City Policy [to bar organizations](#) from accessing U.S. aid if their activities touch abortion provision, “gender ideology,” or diversity, equity, and inclusion — even if funded by another donor.

[So what happens to that \\$600 billion pot of money?](#)

“It is great news for us to see that it's there,” [PAI](#) President **Nabeeha Kazi Hutchins** tells my colleague Elissa Miolene. But she adds: **“We could see money going through different mechanisms, different entities.”** It could go nowhere fast, too.

For example, the [State Department's](#) “America First” global health strategy makes zero mention of family planning, reproductive health care, or maternal health. The term “women” does not even appear.

“If family planning is not formally reflected in implementation frameworks, it will compete for space within health budgets that are being reshaped to meet co-financing obligations tied to named disease priorities,” wrote FP2030, a global partnership focused on family planning.

So for now, those hundreds of millions of dollars **exist solely on paper**.

“We don't know if Congress is going to force the administration to spend that money, and if so, will it be spent separately from those global health compacts, or will it be merged in at some point? Still [to be determined],” says **Beth Schlachter** of [MSI Reproductive Choices](#). “Until Congress grows a backbone, it's very unlikely [the State Department is] going to do anything with it — and they don't have the staff to do it anyway.”

Read: [US pulls away from family planning. What about the \\$600M saved for it?](#)