



Keeping Abortion Funding Out of PEPFAR

What Is PEPFAR?

- In 2003, President George W. Bush launched an initiative to fight HIV called the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).
- PEPFAR has become the most substantial governmental effort to address a single disease. Just since 2013, the U.S. government has dedicated more than \$100 billion to PEPFAR.
- PEPFAR was last reauthorized in 2018 via the PEPFAR Extension Act of 2018 and is up for reauthorization again in 2023 for \$30 billion over five years (\$6 billion a year).

PEPFAR and the PLGHA/Mexico City Policy

- The last time PEPFAR was reauthorized, the Protecting Life in Global Health Assistance Policy (PLGHA) was still in effect. The PLGHA was an expanded version of the Mexico City Policy which prevented foreign non-governmental organizations (NGOs) receiving U.S. government funds from performing abortions or promoting abortion.
- President Joe Biden rescinded the PLGHA in 2021, leaving the door open for PEPFAR funding to be directed towards abortion and/or organizations that perform abortions.

Specific Causes for Concern

- In September 2022, the Biden administration released a document titled "Reimagining PEPFAR's Strategic Direction." Throughout this strategy document, the Biden administration clearly

envisions abortion and contraception as an essential part of PEPFAR's work. In addition, it seems to indicate that PEPFAR will fund programs for "LGBTQI+ rights." The document states:

- "Where possible, PEPFAR will integrate HIV programming into strengthened public health systems to manage... *sexual reproductive health, rights and services*, as well as other local health priorities that impact PLHIV – to protect HIV/AIDS gains and strengthen health and economic outcomes." (Emphasis added.)
- PEPFAR will partner with American institutions to "Leverage the very best of American ingenuity, including the scientific community, academic institutions, the diaspora, and faith- and community-based organizations and strengthen coordination between PEPFAR and other U.S. government global health and development programs, including for tuberculosis, malaria, *sexual and reproductive health and rights, gender equality, LGBTQI+*, and human rights." (Emphasis added.)
- According to the development news website Devex, one of PEPFAR's six program areas includes "Prevention, which ranges from contraceptives to voluntary circumcision programs to reproductive health education."
- Some of PEPFAR's top grant recipients publicly support and promote abortion. For example, Anova Health Institute, a South African organization, has promoted abortion for "pregnant girls" and instructed teenagers about abortion on PEPFAR's dime.
- PEPFAR should not be a major slush fund for the Biden administration's radical social policies on abortion, sexual orientation, and gender ideology overseas. Congress should closely examine the program and recalibrate it to its intended purpose: to eradicate the scourge HIV/AIDS in the developing world.
- Abortion and gender ideology do not cure any diseases and have no place in America's fight against HIV/AIDS. Before PEPFAR is reauthorized, strong pro-life protections must be added to the reauthorization bill to ensure that taxpayer funding for PEPFAR does not include abortion or promotion of radical sexual ideologies.