

May 1, 2023

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs
Committee
2300 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Foreign
Relations Committee
483 Senate Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul and Ranking Member Risch,

The American people do not support using taxpayer dollars to fund abortion at home or abroad.¹ For that reason, there exists longstanding precedent not to fund abortion, directly or indirectly, through U.S. foreign assistance. We are concerned that grants from the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) are used by nongovernmental organizations that promote abortions and push a radical gender ideology abroad. We urge you to ensure that any reauthorization of PEPFAR ensures that taxpayer money is not used for such purposes.

First authorized in 2003, PEPFAR is the U.S. government's global effort to combat HIV. After 20 years, it has become the most expensive foreign assistance program in history, with average annual funding for bilateral programs totaling more than \$5 billion dollars, and overall funding through 2022 totaling more than \$110 billion.² PEPFAR alone makes up the majority of U.S. global health funding, ranging from 56% to 62% over the past five years.³ A five year reauthorization of PEPFAR could lead to nearly \$30 billion in new appropriations, with no clear guardrails over the largest single source of U.S. foreign aid.

Many of PEPFAR's top grant recipients publicly support abortion as a method of family planning. For example, in 2022 the International Planned Parenthood Federation, one of the largest global abortion advocacy groups, announced a partnership with USAID to address "HIV/AIDS, family planning, and reproductive health" in low- and middle-income countries.⁴ In another example, the South African based Anova Health Institute, decried laws enacted in U.S. states that designate bathroom use based on biological sex while also promoting abortions to teens as young as 14.⁵

This comes on the heels of the Biden Administration directives to promote abortion and gender ideology abroad. One of President Biden's first actions in office was to sign a memorandum reinstating foreign aid to organizations that promote abortion abroad, including the United Nations Population fund which is complicit in China's coercive abortion practices. The memo

¹ <https://www.kofc.org/en/resources/communications/polls/2023-kofc-marist-poll-presentation.pdf>

² <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/fact-sheet/the-u-s-presidents-emergency-plan-for-aids-relief-pepfar>

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ <https://www.ippf.org/news/ippf-part-team-funded-usaid-implement-global-health-equity-project>

⁵ [https://www.anovahealth.co.za/uploads/824-Publications%20and%20Manuals-Sexual%20and%20Reproductive%20Health%20for%20teens%20\(14-19%20years\)%20low%20res.pdf](https://www.anovahealth.co.za/uploads/824-Publications%20and%20Manuals-Sexual%20and%20Reproductive%20Health%20for%20teens%20(14-19%20years)%20low%20res.pdf)

also suggested that efforts to combat HIV/AIDS abroad would be jeopardized unless groups promoting abortion received U.S. foreign aid.

Since President Reagan first instituted the Mexico City Policy in 1984, it has been the policy of the United States that taxpayer funds should not be used to perform or promote abortion abroad. It is imperative that a similar policy be applied to PEPFAR so that no grantees or subgrantees are using taxpayer funds to promote a radical sexual and reproductive health agenda.

Sincerely,

Kevin Roberts, Ph.D.
President
The Heritage Foundation

Marjorie Dannenfelser
President
Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America

Jon Schweppe
Policy Director
American Principles Project

Nicole Theis
President
Delaware Family Policy Council

Gary L. Bauer
President
American Values

Tony Perkins
President
Family Research Council

Steve Aden
Chief Legal Officer & General Counsel
Americans United for Life

Kris Ullman
President
Eagle Forum

Tom McClusky
Director of Government Affairs
CatholicVote

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D.
President
The Ethics and Public Policy Center

Cathi Herrod
President
Center for Arizona Policy

David Fowler
President
The Family Action Council of Tennessee

Austin Ruse
President
Center for Family and Human Rights

Ruth Ward
Director of Government Relations
Family Policy Alliance

Penny Y. Nance
CEO & President
Concerned Women for America Legislative
Action Committee

Brad Payne
Policy & Government Affairs Director
Family Policy Institute of Washington

Joe Waresak
President
Dr. James Dobson Family Institute

Cole Muzio
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Dean Nelson
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Thomas McDonough
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American Family Project, Inc.