



Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 169

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

No. 158

BIDEN HAS HIJACKED PEPFAR TO PROMOTE ABORTION

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chair, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Chair, the State-Foreign Operations bill under consideration today continues and strengthens the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, PEPFAR, for another year, fiscal year 2024, ensuring that critically needed medicines, including antiretrovirals, or ARVs, and other lifesaving interventions are available to those who need them in Africa and elsewhere.

Mr. Chair, I especially thank Chairman Mario Diaz-Balart and the Committee on Appropriations for insisting that the noble purpose of PEPFAR is not compromised or undercut by integrating and merging other agendas, including and especially the promotion of abortion by massively funding pro-abortion foreign nongovernmental organizations and instructing them to repeal pro-life laws.

To that end, the new State Department bill reinstates the protecting life and global health assistance policy, also known as the Mexico City policy.

Sadly, upon assuming office, President Biden repealed Ronald Reagan's old Mexico City policy, which ensured that PEPFAR's over \$6 billion a year in taxpayer grant money wasn't subsidizing foreign NGOs that perform or promote abortion. Biden's PEPFAR Core Program--and this needs to be underscored because some people say they are not doing it--says they promote protecting sexual reproductive health and

rights, including the ongoing rescission of the Mexico City policy.

The executive director of UNAIDS, a prime PEPFAR partner composed of WHO, UNFPA, and other U.N. agencies, welcomed Biden's repeal of the pro-life policy, saying that it showed his commitment to abortion rights.

Mr. Chair, a June 6th letter signed by 131 African lawmakers and religious leaders, including the speaker of the Parliament of Ghana, implored Congress not to--I say again, not to--exploit PEPFAR to promote abortion, stating: "We want to express our concerns and suspicions that this funding is supporting . . . abortion," which "violates our core beliefs concerning life, family, and religion."

Most of the African countries are solidly pro-life, and they are under siege by the NGOs that we are supporting. The Mexico City policy helps to ensure that that doesn't happen. They went on to say: "We ask that PEPFAR remain true to its original mission and respect our norms, traditions, and values. We ask that those partner organizations with whom the U.S. Government partners to implement PEPFAR programs . . . are cognizant and respectful of our beliefs and not cross over into promoting divisive ideas and practices that are not consistent with those of Africa."

Last year, showing no doubt of the pro-abortion goals of this administration, they announced a sweeping new radical policy known as Reimagining PEPFAR's Strategic Decision. They said that it integrates sexual reproductive health and rights. Of course, that means abortion with HIV/AIDS work.

Mr. Chair, in a recent op-ed, former Speaker Newt Gingrich wrote: "It is incredibly disappointing, but not surprising, that the Biden administration has hijacked one of President George W. Bush's greatest accomplishments, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, to promote abortion on demand in the developing world."

He continued: "President Biden's insincere and demonstrably false claim that PEPFAR isn't pushing abortion on demand in Africa and elsewhere collapses under any serious scrutiny of its partners."

They say they are not doing it. They are empowering the NGOs to do it. Just like in this Chamber, the House and Senate, and all over this country, we know it is the NGOs,

Planned Parenthood and others, that tee up and promote very aggressively for abortion right up until the moment of birth.

Mr. Chair, I strongly supported PEPFAR when it was created in 2003, and I was the sponsor of the reauthorization of PEPFAR in 2018. Regrettably, it has been reimagined, hijacked by the Biden administration to empower pro-abortion international NGOs, deviating from its life-affirming work.

It is time we got back to the original noble idea, for which there is a strong bipartisan, bicameral consensus. That noble goal is to prevent this devastating disease, robustly treat and assist those who have been affected, and ultimately end HIV/AIDS around the world, not supporting abortion, the killing of unborn children by dismemberment, chemical poisoning.

Do you know what the abortion pill does? It starves the baby to death. That is its operation. They are trying to disseminate that all over Africa.
