



CHANGE Matters

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Dear Supporter,

It's not every day we get to see concrete results of our advocacy, so new successes in U.S. support for female condoms offered exciting proof that our work is paying off.

In PEPFAR's recently released [Fiscal Year 2011 Country Operational Plan Guidance](#), female condoms are featured prominently in [appendices](#) that are used to guide U.S. program planning:

"...given the priority placed upon a women and girls-centered approach in the PEPFAR 5 Year Strategy and GHI, prevention programming should include interventions that empower women and address gender inequities in accordance with the epidemiology in each context. Tools like the female condom, which give women more options for practicing safer sex, are important options" (page 13).

CHANGE has worked diligently with fellow advocates in Uganda, Southern Africa and the U.S. to carry messages of the need and demand for female condoms to key officials in USAID Missions, PEPFAR and USAID headquarters in Washington and U.S. Congress, and our advocacy is paying off. This is the first time that female condoms have featured so prominently in any PEPFAR guidance document.

We know there is no magic bullet to end HIV/AIDS, maternal deaths and unintended pregnancies. Advocacy for U.S. support for female condoms is just one piece of the puzzle to ensure U.S. support for sexual and reproductive health and rights.

We hope you will continue to advocate with us to strengthen and expand USAID and

PEPFAR support for sexual and reproductive health and rights, including expanding access to female condoms. We also hope you will consider extending your support for CHANGE's advocacy by [including CHANGE among your year-end contributions](#).

In solidarity,



Serra Sippel
President

"Bachelet... has distinguished herself as a champion for those who do not always have a voice. In her new role, Bachelet will be responsible for elevating the rights and needs of women and girls across the globe, including the 330 million women who comprise the world's working poor." --Former Sen. Tim Wirth, head of the UN Foundation, speaking about Michele Bachelet and her new role at the top of the United Nations' newly-created body, UN Women.

Ethiopia Speakers Tour, Nov. 8-12

CHANGE is excited to welcome Ethiopian colleagues and U.S. state legislators for our upcoming speakers tour, scheduled for November 8-12 in Washington, D.C., and Minnesota. The tour will present findings from our July Ethiopia study tour in a [Congressional briefing](#) on Capitol Hill and visits with Members of Congress in Washington, and a [town hall meeting](#), briefing with state legislators and NGO roundtable in Minnesota. The tour will feature State Sen. Arthenia Joyner (FL), State Sen. Sandra Pappas (MN), and State Rep. Kay Khan; and Sister Shewaye Alewu Engeda and Bilal Muche, two of the Ethiopian health care experts who hosted us.

The speakers tour will focus on the role of the Ethiopian government and U.S. foreign assistance in addressing reproductive health and rights. Initial tour findings showed that U.S. foreign assistance to Ethiopia is helping strengthen Ethiopia's pioneering holistic health programs that target the reproductive health needs of the hardest-to-reach women and families. However, women and girls are still dying from preventable causes stemming from poverty and gender inequality, such as lack of access to voluntary family planning services, complications due to pregnancy, and HIV/AIDS. Ethiopia has been designated a focus country for the newly launched U.S. Global Health Initiative—a woman-centered, integrated approach to international health policy and programs that has the potential to curb some of Ethiopia's most dire health issues. During the week, speakers will address Ethiopia's progress, in addition to remaining challenges and how U.S. foreign assistance can effectively address health challenges for women and girls.

For event dates and times, please visit our [events page](#).

Prevention Now Update: PEPFAR and USAID Advance Support for Female Condoms

PEPFAR's recently released Fiscal Year 2011 Country Operational Plan Guidance includes female condoms in its guidance appendices, which are used in the field by U.S. embassies to guide program planning. This is the first time that female condoms have featured so prominently in any PEPFAR guidance document. This guidance is significant because it helps explain technical requirements, best practices, and what program managers should consider to align with U.S. Congressional and Administrative requirements and policies.

USAID has also shown signs of increased support for female condoms. USAID is hiring for a new position: Senior Condom Programming Advisor. This person will be housed within the Office of HIV/AIDS and will serve as a focal point for female and male condom programming for HIV prevention within PEPFAR. This is great news, and again is a testament that our advocacy to increase U.S. support for female condoms and comprehensive prevention is paying off. For more information about female condoms and U.S. support for female condoms, see the [Prevention Now Campaign's fact sheet on female condoms](#).

Continuing our work to educate the U.S. and global advocacy communities, researchers, and donors about the importance of female condoms for prevention of HIV and unintended pregnancy and the promotion of sexual and reproductive health and rights, CHANGE joined with partners at AIDS Foundation of Chicago, PATH, and AVAC to hold a strategy call on future female condom products, such as the PATH Woman's Condom that is undergoing clinical trials. "[Female Condoms of Today and Tomorrow: Strategy Call on Products and Research and Development \(R&D\) Advocacy](#)" drew an audience of about 70 NGO leaders, researchers, funders, and U.S. government officials, who contributed to a lively discussion on how to move this advocacy agenda forward. If you missed the conversation, feel free to read the [call notes](#), and [let us know your ideas](#) for how to expand access to female condoms globally.

Capitol Hill Update: Appropriations and Global Gag Rule

Appropriations:

FY11 Funding levels for U.S. sexual and reproductive health programs are still undetermined, as budget negotiations lost steam before the elections. For now, programs are being funded at FY10 levels. Final levels will be determined in a House and Senate conference before the end of the year.

CHANGE has been an active participant in urging Congress to approve higher levels to meet global needs, and we signed on to a letter seeking \$1 billion for international family planning/reproductive health. The global health community is also urging Congress to approve \$1.575 billion for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health, and \$9.25 billion for

HIV/AIDS. However, based on funding levels already approved by the House and Senate committees, it is likely that the high end for HIV/AIDS will be \$5.05 billion with \$1.125 billion going to the Global Fund. Maternal and Child Health will likely be at around \$750 with up to \$200 million of that for nutrition. Family planning/reproductive health will be somewhere around \$735 million.

Global Gag Rule:

Despite recent elections, CHANGE continues to work with other advocates on two pieces of legislation: An amendment to the FY 2011 State and Foreign Operations funding measure introduced by Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ) that would require a legislative repeal of the [Global Gag Rule](#). The Global Gag Rule can currently be repealed or reinstated by the president at any time. As a result, since its first instatement in 1984, it has been repealed, reinstated, and repealed again. The Lautenberg amendment would require congressional approval of any action around the Global Gag Rule. CHANGE supports this in an effort to ensure a modicum of checks and balance on the rule. The Lautenberg amendment is included in the Senate Appropriations bill, which will be considered in during the lame duck session. CHANGE is working with the advocacy community to assure the amendment remains in the bill.

What's New: CHANGE Returns Unsolicited Contribution to craigslist

This summer, CHANGE received and then returned an unsolicited contribution of \$25,000 from the craigslist Charitable Fund. The check arrived a few months after news accounts of craigslist sex ads being misused for the sexual exploitation and trafficking of minors. While we do not believe that craigslist supports or is responsible for such practices, we found their response to the situation inadequate: the lack of outrage or concern for the women exploited through use of their site, finger-pointing at other sites used for similar purposes, and lack of transparency about the Fund's mission and grant-giving was troubling and showed a lack of corporate responsibility. CHANGE returned the check with recommendations for craigslist which appeared in a [blog on Huffington Post](#).

After much pressure from attorneys general and lawsuits, craigslist shut its section for sex ads. A journalist from the *New York Times* asked if CHANGE would now accept funding from craigslist. The answer is no. As an organization committed to the health and rights of all women, CHANGE was unable to accept funds from an entity that does not show a shared concern and commitment toward women and girls.

Take Action

[Tell Congress to repeal the Global Gag Rule](#)

[Raise your voice for the Global Sexual and Reproductive Health Act](#)

CHANGE in the Media

[Women's eNews: U.N. to Ask \\$169 Billion Maternal Health Question](#)

[Businessweek: Commentary: Dear Craigslist, Grow Up](#)

Support CHANGE

Please consider making a [contribution](#) today. Any way you choose to contribute, your support strengthens our efforts to ensure U.S. international policies and programs promote the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls worldwide.

For federal employees, CHANGE is part of the Combined Federal Campaign of the National Capital Area, #62113.



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