

# Focus on Family Health Worldwide Act of 2007

## H.R. 1225

March 2007

### Lead Sponsors:

Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Democrat—Minnesota (4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)  
Congressman Chris Shays, Republican—Connecticut (4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)  
Congressman Jim Ramstad, Republican—Minnesota (3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District)  
Congressman James Oberstar, Democrat—Minnesota (8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)  
Congressman Donald Payne, Democrat—New Jersey (10<sup>th</sup> Congressional District)

### Legislative Goals and Effects:

- Authorizes increased funding for voluntary family planning programs implemented by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID): \$600 million in FY 2008 and an additional \$100 million each year over the next four years to reach \$1 billion in FY 2012.
- Prioritizes funding for countries with acute family planning and maternal health needs.
- Prioritizes coordination of voluntary planning programs with HIV prevention programs.

### The Need for Increased Funding for Family Planning Programs:

- There are more than 80 million unplanned pregnancies around the world each year.
- Approximately 200 million women worldwide don't have access to modern contraception.
- More than 525,000 women die from pregnancy or child-birth related causes every year; many of these deaths could be avoided by increased access to family planning, reproductive health, and emergency obstetric services.
- In sub-Saharan Africa, 46% of women who would like to postpone their next pregnancy or have no more children lack access to family planning.
- In 2006, there were 4.3 million new cases of HIV worldwide, the vast majority of which were sexually transmitted.
- U.S. funding for international family planning programs has stagnated since 1995 even though need has continued to increase dramatically.
- President Bush has requested a 25% cut to U.S. funded international family planning programs.

### There is precedence for U.S. support for voluntary family planning:

- Since 1965, the people and Government of the United States have supported international voluntary family planning programs and increasing accessibility to modern contraceptives in developing countries.
- Since 1974 the United States has played a major role in international agreements recognizing the basic rights of couples and individuals to decide freely and responsibly the number, spacing and timing of their children and to have the information and means to do so, free from discrimination, coercion and violence.

### To Co-Sponsor the Bill or Learn More:

Congressional offices interested in co-sponsoring the bill or learning more should contact Tim Morrissey (Tim.Morrissey@mail.house.gov) in Representative McCollum's office at 5-6631 or Jordan Press (Jordan.Press@mail.house.gov) in Representative Shays' office at 5-5541.