

## Comparison of 2008 U.S. Global AIDS Bills

March 2008

### BILLS TO REAUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT'S EMERGENCY PLAN FOR AIDS RELIEF H.R. 5501 AND S. 2731

The U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have introduced versions of the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde U.S. Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008. These bills seek to reauthorize the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Both bills authorize \$50 billion to combat global HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria over the next five years. Though the bills are similar, they differ from each other and from current law on critical issues that greatly affect the health and rights of women and girls.

Current Law (PL 108-25)	House Bill (H.R. 5501)	Senate Bill (S. 2731)
<p><b>Abstinence and Prevention</b></p> <p>33% of all HIV prevention funds must be spent on abstinence-until-marriage</p> <p>Expresses the Sense of Congress that 20% of PEPFAR funding should go toward prevention of HIV</p>	<p>Replaces 33% abstinence-until-marriage earmark with requirement that the Global AIDS Coordinator report to Congress if less than 50% of funding to prevent sexual transmission of HIV is spent on abstinence and fidelity programs in countries with generalized epidemics</p> <p>Requires not less than 20% of all PEPFAR funds be spent on prevention</p>	<p>Replaces 33% abstinence-until-marriage earmark with requirement that the Global AIDS Coordinator report to Congress if less than 50% of funding to prevent sexual transmission of HIV is spent on abstinence and fidelity programs in countries with generalized epidemics</p>
<p><b>Prostitution and Sex Trafficking</b></p> <p>Any organization receiving U. S. global AIDS funding must have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking</p>	<p>Requires that organizations receiving U.S. global AIDS funding have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking</p>	<p>Requires that organizations receiving U.S. global AIDS funding have a policy explicitly opposing prostitution and sex trafficking</p>
<p><b>Family Planning</b></p> <p>Family Planning programs may receive funding for HIV/AIDS programs irrespective of their compliance with the Mexico City Policy</p>	<p>Authorizes family planning organizations <i>that already receive</i> U.S. population and family planning assistance—meaning they meet the requirements of the Mexico City Policy—to receive PEPFAR funds for HIV/AIDS testing, counseling, and education services</p>	<p>No reference to family planning</p>
<p><b>Comprehensive Prevention for Women and Youth</b></p> <p>Does not include a prevention strategy for women and youth</p>	<p>Includes a strategy to address the vulnerabilities of women and youth to HIV infection</p>	<p>Does not include a strategy for women and youth</p>
<p><b>Female condoms</b></p> <p>No mention of female condoms</p>	<p>Encourages the correct and consistent use of female condoms in HIV prevention efforts</p>	<p>Encourages the correct and consistent use of female condoms in HIV prevention efforts</p>

(See reverse side for Recommendations to Reform U.S. Global AIDS Policy)

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS TO REFORM U.S. GLOBAL AIDS POLICY**

**In order to effectively combat the global AIDS epidemic, prevent the greatest number of new infections and address the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls to HIV infection, the Center for Health and Gender Equity recommends the following reforms to current and proposed U.S. global AIDS policy:**

#### **Abstinence and Prevention**

U.S. global AIDS policy must promote prevention programs that respond to local epidemics and equip individuals and couples with the knowledge, tools and skills necessary to reduce risk and prevent infection regardless of perceived risk. Restrictions and reporting requirements like those in the House and Senate bills hinder access to life-saving information and services, such as male and female condoms, and must be eliminated.

#### **Prostitution and Sex Trafficking**

The anti-prostitution pledge must be removed. Requiring organizations to oppose prostitution runs contrary to best practices in public health by undermining efforts to stem HIV infection among marginalized populations and efforts to promote fundamental rights of all persons.

#### **Family Planning**

U.S. global AIDS policy should promote full integration of HIV/AIDS and family planning programs and services. U.S. funding for integration should be awarded to the most effective family planning programs, not just those the U.S. already funds. Funding for integration of services should not be predicated on an organization's compliance with the Mexico City Policy.

#### **Comprehensive Prevention for Women and Youth**

Given the unique physiological and social realities of women and youth that put them at risk of violence and HIV infection, U.S. global AIDS policy should include a clear strategy to prevent HIV infections among married and unmarried women and girls as delineated in Sec. 3 of the Protection Against Transmission of HIV for Women and Youth (PATHWAY) Act of 2007, H.R. 1713.

#### **Female Condoms**

U.S. global AIDS policy should promote and distinguish female condoms as an effective HIV prevention tool designed for female initiation and control.

### **RESOURCES**

For more information on the reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), visit:

[www.pepfarwatch.org](http://www.pepfarwatch.org).

For a summary of findings from the Government Accountability Office and the Institute of Medicine regarding the negative impact of the abstinence-until-marriage earmark, visit:

[www.pepfarwatch.org/pubs/GAOIOMfindings.pdf](http://www.pepfarwatch.org/pubs/GAOIOMfindings.pdf).

