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COMMISSION

SENIOR MEMBER, HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE

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Dear Colleague,

President Biden has hijacked PEPFAR, the \$6 billion a year foreign aid program designed to mitigate HIV/AIDs in many targeted—mostly African—countries in order to promote abortion on demand.

Bad actor nongovernment organizations (NGOs) that promote abortion have received \$1.34 billion from PEPFAR funds since FY 2021 and are now poised to carry out Biden’s new strategy directives.

The Biden Administration’s 2022 PEPFAR action plan, “[Reimagining PEPFAR’s Strategic Direction](#)”, makes absolutely clear that the new direction of the program includes “integrating” PEPFAR with abortion promotion.

And the Biden Administration’s 2023 PEPFAR [Country and Regional Operational Plan Guidance](#) states that country programs should work with organizations seeking to change laws “regarding sexual, reproductive, and economic rights of women” – i.e., abortion.

The “integration” with abortion promotion is underway and will only get worse under the Biden strategy plan. Here are just a few current examples:

Population Services International (PSI) received \$96.5 million in PEPFAR funding in the last two years. PSI proudly proclaims it provides abortion and lobbies to eliminate pro-life laws. “[PSI provides](#) comprehensive abortion and post-abortion care services in nearly 20 countries throughout the world.” PSI has its own private provider network to provide abortions. [PSI states that](#) it “has launched misoprostol and mifepristone-misoprostol combination-pack brands in nearly 20 countries and supported already existing commercial brands in more than 15 countries.” [PSI uses](#) multiple media channels, including smartphone apps, chatbots, and hotlines to educate women about abortion. **PSI lobbies to change pro-life laws in countries around the world. “[PSI helped lead](#) the effort to create Nigeria’s first national guidelines for abortion provision.”**

Village Reach received \$10.1 million in PEPFAR funding in the last two years and used PEPFAR funds to promote abortion in Malawi and lobby for changes in pro-life laws. As part of helping Malawi establish a [government-funded hotline](#) (that included providing information and referrals for “sexual and reproductive health,” i.e., abortion), Village Reach and Planned Parenthood used PEPFAR funding through the DREAMS Innovation Challenge to [create a manual](#) containing a whole module on “unsafe abortion

and young people.” Items covered include the need to change pro-life laws to provide “services that young people need.”

Pathfinder International received over \$5 million in PEPFAR funding in the last two years and lobbies to weaken or eliminate pro-life laws in nations around the world. Pathfinder is explicit in its promotion of abortion in other countries, stating that it is “committed to expanding access to...safe abortion.” It “[c]ollaborate[s] with governments in building the capacity of health systems to ensure quality, comprehensive abortion services...”

In [President Biden’s executive order](#) following the *Dobbs* decision, he stated his commitment to “promote access to critical reproductive healthcare services, ***including abortion***” [emphasis added]. The order explains that “reproductive healthcare services” means “medical, surgical, counseling, or referral services relating to the human reproductive system, ***including services relating to pregnancy or the termination of a pregnancy***” [emphasis added].

Specifically, in President Biden’s [“Reimagining PEPFAR,”](#) two of its four “Strategic Pillars” highlight commitments to incorporate sexual and reproductive rights (in which we know he includes abortion) into PEPFAR’s mission:

- **Strategic Pillar 2 – Sustaining the Response** includes a commitment that “*Where possible, PEPFAR will integrate HIV programming into strengthened public health systems to manage... sexual reproductive health, rights and services...*”
- **Strategic Pillar 4 – Transformative Partnerships** includes a commitment to “[l]everage the very best of American ingenuity... and strengthen coordination between PEPFAR and other U.S. government..., including for...sexual and reproductive health and rights...”

Twenty years ago, PEPFAR was enacted to put a tourniquet on the HIV/AIDS pandemic—and in 2018, I was the prime sponsor of the bill enacted into law to reauthorize PEPFAR for five more years—the program has saved millions of lives.

Yet, the noble goals of PEPFAR must not now—or ever—be compromised by integrating the promotion of abortion.

U.S. foreign policy, and the foreign programs we fund with billions of dollars in grant money should consistently protect, affirm, and care for those who are ill, and tangibly assist women and children—not poison, starve or dismember unborn children to death.

Any multi-year PEPFAR reauthorizing legislation must ensure that Biden’s hijacking of PEPFAR to promote abortion be halted.

Sincerely,


CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH
Member of Congress