
Aid Accountability Act

Since 1973, the Helms Amendment has prohibited the use of U.S. foreign aid for performing or encouraging abortion as a method of family planning.¹ Yet, because there are no assured repercussions for violating it, the Helms Amendment has been violated and abused making American taxpayers complicit in overseas abortions.

Under the Biden administration, the State Department admitted that PEPFAR funds intended for the prevention of HIV were used in violation of abortion-related restrictions in Mozambique.² While the Biden administration suspended funding and secured reimbursement from the Government of Mozambique for the salaries of health workers involved, there is nothing precluding future U.S. funding.

This is just one instance. There are dozens of other PEPFAR partners who violated the Helms Amendment and used over \$1 million of congressionally appropriated funds to promote abortion instead of address the public health threat of HIV.³ Backed by U.S. agencies and civil servants, our foreign aid programs have been co-opted to further a progressive abortion agenda. These grantees and those who authorized them have proven they cannot be trusted with taxpayer funds or to comply with the law.

There is a necessity for consequences to deter violations such as these from ever happening again and uphold the sanctity of life on a global scale. That is exactly what the Aid Accountability Act would do.

Bill Specifics

Creates a “funding death penalty” for recipients of U.S. foreign aid who violate the Helms Amendment:

- A grantee, sub-grantee, or contractor who violates abortion-related prohibitions will be permanently ineligible for future U.S. funding.
- Any civil servant who knowingly facilitates a violation of abortion-related prohibitions is barred from civil service for life and is financially liable for the violations.
- The Secretary of State shall make final determinations of violations and penalties.
- The determination may only be overturned by a federal court and is subject to the Congressional Review Act.

¹ 22 U.S. Code § 2151b(f)(1)

² <https://2021-2025.state.gov/bureau-of-global-health-security-and-diplomacy/releases/2025/01/pepfar-statement-on-actions-taken-following-partner-compliance-violations-in-mozambique/>

³ https://chris-smith.house.gov/uploadedfiles/scanned_from_a_xerox_multifunction_printer.pdf

For more information concerning this bill or to be added as a cosponsor, please contact Caroline Boyd (Caroline_Boyd@lee.senate.gov) or Karina Mariotti (Karina_Mariotti@lee.senate.gov) in Senator Lee’s office.