

We Need Your Help

A Critically Important AIDS, TB and Malaria bill is Being Blocked in the Senate and Time is Running Out!

TAKE ACTION NOW

Here's how you can help:

Call Senator Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell's (R-KY) Leadership office today at (202) 224-3135.

Here's what you can say:

My name is _____ and I am calling from _____ to urge Senator McConnell to take action now to bring the PEPFAR reauthorization bill up for consideration immediately.

(If you are a Kentucky resident, ask for a written response.)

Here's why your call is so important:

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) reauthorization legislation is being blocked from consideration in the Senate by Senator Tom Coburn of Oklahoma and six other senators. This is worrisome as time is running out to bring this bill up for consideration. Senator McConnell, as the highest ranking Republican in the Senate, has the power to push Senator Coburn and the other senators opposing consideration of the bill to come to an agreement with the Democrats quickly so that the senate may consider the legislation.

The passage and full funding of this bill means the difference between life and death for millions of people living in some of the poorest countries on the planet. If it is not passed, over two million orphans and vulnerable children will also miss out on desperately needed care and support. If the bill is not passed by the time of the Group of Eight meeting in Japan in mid-July, the United States will also be forfeiting any chance of using PEPFAR as leverage with other G8 members to do their part for our world's children.

When the "Group of Eight" met in 2005 in Gleneagles, Scotland, it promised to increase annual foreign aid by US\$50 billion from 2004 to 2010, to a level of \$130 billion (\$35 billion was to come from nations and the remainder from non-G8 donors). Unfortunately, it is halfway toward the target date of 2010 and yet G8 aid has increased by only 14 percent of the total committed.

When the G8 met at the 2007 Summit in Heiligendamm, Germany, G8 leaders further pledged to prevent “twenty-four million new [HIV/AIDS] infections, and to care for twenty-four million people, including 10 million orphans and vulnerable children.”

The members of the G8, as countries with the vast majority of the world’s resources, can make the difference between whether or not millions of child lives are saved and protected, simply by delivering on the promises they made in Gleneagles and Heiligendamm. In addition, their example can leverage other donor nations’, recipient countries’ and UN agencies’ support.

For More Information Contact: Leila Nimatallah, Policy Director, Global Action for Children, (202) 589-0808 X223.