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# *The Weekly Pulse*

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NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



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Vol. 153: Congressional Legislation, PEPFAR, & Speaker of the House Removal

October 9, 2023

Quick Summary

**In a historically unprecedented move, Members of Congress [removed](#) the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives through a motion to vacate.**

Congressman Patrick McHenry ([R-NC](#)) is currently serving as Speaker *pro tempore* until an election for a new speaker is completed. While this is new territory, the House rules appear to indicate that no business can be brought to the floor for a vote until after a new Speaker is elected. This means that important legislation including the annual US budget bills and the National Defense Authorization Act are stalled. These bills include important initiatives to support children, adolescents, youth, and families everywhere.

The move to remove the Speaker was initiated by a small group of Republicans who are pursuing severe funding cuts to budgets affecting US national and international priorities and security. The House plans to commence voting to elect a new Speaker this week.

To read more, click [here](#).

**Rep. Grace Meng ([D-NY](#)) introduced [H.R. 5851](#), which will “require the USAID Youth Coordinator, in their role as defined by the USAID Youth Policy, to coordinate cross-sectoral international development efforts related to youth, inclusive of youth, peace, and security, and for other purposes.”** This legislation was introduced and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and is currently co-sponsored by Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick ([R-PA](#)), Rep. Dean Phillips ([D-MN](#)), Rep. Michael Lawler ([R-NY](#)), Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove ([D-CA](#)), and Rep. Maria Salazar ([R-FL](#)). More information to come. To read the full announcement, click [here](#).

**Rep. Jake LaTurner ([R-KS](#)) introduced [H.R. 5847](#) “International Children with Disabilities Protection Act of 2023” act.** The bill establishes a grant and capacity-building program called the "International Children with Disabilities Protection Program" to assist organizations of persons with disabilities and family members of children with disabilities in advocating for policies that support family inclusion and the transition of children with disabilities to independent living. It also allows for capacity-building programs and technical assistance. The bill requires annual briefings and periodic reports to congressional committees on the program's implementation and activities. It also encourages programs related to childcare, healthcare, education, and disability rights to align with the policy of family inclusion for children with disabilities. Currently the bill is co-sponsored by Rep. Diana Titus ([D-NV](#)), Rep. Maria Salazar ([R-FL](#)), Rep. Joaquin Castro ([D-TX](#)), Delegate Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen ([R-AS-At Large](#)), and Rep. James McGovern ([D-MA](#)). Click [here](#) to learn more about this legislation.

**The G20 recently met in India and [announced](#) the creation of a new Working Group on Empowerment of Women**, set to convene in 2024 under the G20 Brazil presidency. The G20 Leaders Declaration recognizes the importance of gender equality and the empowering of women and girls in achieving the 2030 sustainable development agenda. Given that G20 member-states represent a significant portion of global GDP and population, their focus on gender equality, along with digital solutions for universal health coverage, marks a significant step towards inclusive progress. The G20's commitment to women's and girls' empowerment, along with the establishment of a new Working Group, reflects a pivotal step toward global gender equality and sustainable development. Click [here](#) to learn more and read the announcement.

## Spotlight

**Devex [held](#) an online event titled "The Future of PEPFAR", marking the 20th anniversary of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR).** PEPFAR has long been recognized as an example of U.S. global health leadership,

having saved an estimated 25 million lives and enjoying bipartisan support. PEPFAR includes a critical ten percent set aside of its funding to support children. Although PEPFAR programming is continuing for the time being, the laps in reauthorization means that requirements such as the ten percent set-aside for children have expired, putting these allocations at risk.

The event aimed to address critical questions about the future of PEPFAR, including how long the U.S. government would continue to fund this monumental global health program. The panel of [experts](#), including Lisa Bos, Senior Director of Government Relations at World Vision USA, Katie Coester, Associate Director of Public Policy and Advocacy at the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, Jirair Ratevosian, U.S. congressional candidate and former senior adviser at PEPFAR, and Michael Igoe, Senior Reporter at Devex, led the discussion on this pivotal topic.

Efforts are underway to reauthorize PEPFAR or to at least achieve a one-year extension. However, recent controversies have centered on allegations that PEPFAR funding could indirectly free up unrelated funding to support abortion. This allegation has complicated PEPFAR reauthorization in the U.S. Congress. These political challenges have the potential to disrupt the historically bipartisan PEPFAR initiative and send a concerning message to U.S. partners in the fight against AIDS. To read more about this event, click [here](#).

## Events

- CARE International [webinar](#) **“From Model to Movement: Standing by girls as they take the lead.”** October 11, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- Alliance for Peacebuilding and Search for Common Ground [virtual event](#) **“Foreign Aid and its Unintended Consequences—A Conversation with Dirk-Jan Koch.”** October 11, 2023, at 4 pm ET.
- USAID Higher Education Learning Network [virtual event](#) **“Capturing Stories of Resilience in Africa When Higher Education Is at Risk.”** October 17, 2023, at 6 am ET.
- USAID Higher Education Learning Network [virtual event](#) **“Capturing Stories of Resilience in LAC When Higher Education Is at Risk.”** October 19, 2023, at 3 pm ET.
- USAID Higher Education Learning Network [virtual event](#) **“Capturing Stories of Resilience in Asia When Higher Education Is at Risk.”** October 23, 2023, at 10 pm ET.
- Basic Education Coalition [webinar](#) **“Lessons and New Directions in Social and Emotional Learning Measurement.”** October 24, 2023, at 9 am ET.

- PLAN International [webinar](#) **“Protecting adolescent girls in emergencies.”** October 25, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and World Health Organization (WHO) [virtual event](#) **“Accelerating progress towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG3) targets for young people in the Americas.”** October 25, 2023, at 11 am ET.

#### Reports, Articles & Resources

- UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme to End Child Marriage [report](#) **“Gender assessment of civil society organization partners.”**
- YP2LE [resource](#) **“Youth Engagement and Localization: Lessons and Resources from USAID's YouthPower 2 Collaboration Group.”**
- Reuters [article](#) **“In Burkina Faso, a million children out of school due to insecurity– UNICEF.”**
- Human Rights Watch [article](#) **“Clashes in Lebanon Risk Disrupting Education for Thousands of Children: Occupation and Damage to Schools for Palestinian Refugee Kids Causing Education Delays.”**
- UN News [story](#) **“WHO approves second malaria vaccine for children.”**



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