
The Weekly Pulse

NEWS FROM ORGANIZATIONS AND COALITIONS IN GLOBAL CHILD ADVOCACY



Vol. 158: READ Reauthorization Act, PEPFAR & HFAC Markups

November 13, 2023

Quick Summary

The Global Campaign for Education-US (GCE-US) and its partners celebrate the successful passage of the READ Reauthorization Act ([S.41](#)) in the Senate on November 6, 2023. The Act aims to authorize the U.S. government's international basic education strategy, along with transparency and accountability measures, supporting children and youth globally for an additional five years. The focus now shifts to the House of Representatives, where engaged civil society and advocacy groups are actively working to secure approval. Key figures such as Rep. Chris Smith ([R-NJ](#)), House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Michael McCaul ([R-TX](#)), and House Speaker Mike Johnson ([R-LA](#)) are targeted for support. Contacts in these districts or offices are encouraged to reach out to Jennifer Rigg (jrigg@gce-us.org) and Suzanne Berman (sberman@gce-us.org).

First Focus, World Vision, the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, and Catholic Relief Services held a luncheon briefing for House staffers focused on foreign affairs issues. The event, held in a House Foreign Affairs Committee room with the support of HFAC Chairman McCaul's staff, featured speakers from each organization emphasizing the crucial role of PEPFAR as a children's program. Panelists highlighted achievements, such as preventing maternal to child transmission of HIV for 5.5 million babies, raising HIV pediatric treatment levels to 52 percent, and supporting 7.2 million orphans and vulnerable children. Despite the challenges of legislative inactivity in the House of Representatives and the impending November 17th deadline, advocates are persistently pushing for a five-year clean reauthorization of PEPFAR, acknowledging the slim but existing possibility. The briefing garnered 35 RSVPs and 20 attendees from Congressional offices, including committee staff. To learn more about the importance of PEPFAR, click [here](#).

The U.S. Department of State has launched the Indigenous Youth Leadership Coalition (IYLC), a network dedicated to amplifying the voices of Indigenous youth in global civic and political discussions. The inaugural cohort, consisting of six Indigenous young leaders from the Western Hemisphere, is currently in Washington, D.C., participating in the White House Tribal Youth Forum alongside Native American youth leaders. During their visit, the cohort engaged in meetings with State Department officials, civil society, and U.S. Tribal leaders, setting the stage for virtual IYLC activities through September 2024. The diverse [IYLC participants](#) include Maricelma Francelino Fialho Cândido from Brazil, Daisy Lahache from Canada, Noamby Lucas-Castillo from Colombia, Edna Marly Figueroa Cuc from Guatemala, Silvia Alejandra Miranda Loredó from Honduras, and Josefina Bautista Peña from Mexico. Each participant brought a unique perspective and commitment to issues such as preserving Indigenous knowledge and languages, climate resilience, and health. Their engagements aimed to contribute to effective practices for Native youth leaders and provide opportunities to share their insights with U.S. policymakers. Click here to learn [more](#).

Spotlight

The House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) held a markup [session](#) this past week, which included the Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) Act of 2023 ([H.R. 6987](#)). The proposed act, sponsored by Rep. Sydney Kamlager-Dove ([D-CA](#)), seeks to establish a comprehensive Initiative by the United States Government. The Initiative aims to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa. The act emphasizes the importance of supporting the next generation of African leaders, promoting strong partnerships, and investing in various areas such as leadership skills, entrepreneurship, public administration, peace, and security.

YALI is designed to provide support to young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa through professional development, training, and networking opportunities. The resolution outlines the purpose, activities, and oversight of YALI, including fellowships for young African leaders, reciprocal exchanges, and the creation of regional leadership centers and networks.

Additionally, the act highlights the role of the Secretary of State in overseeing the U.S.-based and Africa-based activities, collaboration with the private sector for public-private partnerships, and the submission of an implementation plan. The plan includes clearly defined program goals, monitoring strategies, and efforts to ensure the program aligns with U.S. foreign policy goals in Africa. The act also includes a reporting requirement to assess progress and provide recommendations for the Initiative's improvement. The proposed initiative is set to sunset five years after its enactment. To learn more about this act, click [here](#).

Events

- PMNCH for Womens', Childrens' & Adolescents' Health [webinar](#) **"2nd Global Forum on Childhood Pneumonia: Commitment Progress Roundtable."** November 13, 2023, at 11 am ET.
- International Centre for Missing & Exploited Children (ICMEC) [webinar](#) **"Global Launch of ICMEC's eLearning on Demand."** November 14, 2023, at 9 am ET.
- Center for Global Development (CGD) and the Modernizing Foreign Assistance Network (MFAN) [webinar](#) **"Evidence-Informed Decision-Making: The Legacy of FATAA and the Evidence Act for US Development Agencies."** November 14, 2023, at 10 am ET.
- Columbia Mailman School of Public Health [webinar](#) **"Schools and Toilets: MHH stories & solutions."** November 16, 2023, at 8 am ET.
- Global Communities and the Coalition for Adolescent Girls [virtual event](#) **"A Safer World for HER: Mobilizing Communities to Prevent Violence Against Girls."** December 6, 2023, at 9:30 am ET.

Reports, Articles & Resources

- We Protect Global Alliance [report](#) **"Global Threat Assessment 2023: Assessing the scale and scope of child sexual abuse online."**
- PMNCH for Womens', Childrens' & Adolescents' Health, WHO, UNAIDS, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN WOMEN, and the World Food Programme [report](#) **"Global Accelerated Action for the Health of Adolescents (AA-HA!) - Second edition: Guidance to support country implementation."**

- PMNCH for Womens', Childrens' & Adolescents' Health [article](#) **"1 in 10 babies worldwide are born early, with major impacts on health and survival: Poor maternal health and malnutrition underpin high numbers of preterm births."**
- Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack [report](#) **"Non-State Armed Groups and Attacks on Education: Exploring Trends and Practices to Curb Violations."**
- First Focus Speaking of Kids [podcast](#) **"#3 - Creating a Children-First Mindset in Policy and Society with Adam Benforado."**



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