

AMERICAN VALUES ACT

Since 1973, the U.S. Congress has worked to ensure that U.S. foreign assistance would not be used to perform or promote abortion and involuntary sterilization overseas. Enacted as part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA), the Helms amendment has thus served as the cornerstone for values-based U.S. foreign assistance.

Unfortunately, there are several essential protections that have *not* been permanently enacted via the FAA. This includes the Siljander amendment (prohibiting funding to lobby for or against abortion) and the Kemp-Kasten amendment (prohibiting funding for organizations and programs that support coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization programs). Carried as part of the annual appropriations process, these essential provisions of law remain vulnerable to efforts by pro-abortion groups to undermine and overturn pro-life protections.

The American Values Act seeks to mitigate this threat first by amending the FAA to permanently enact the Siljander and Kemp-Kasten amendments. Second, it ensures that each of these restrictions applies to *all* U.S. foreign assistance, rather than just U.S. foreign development assistance.

To that end, the bill amends section 104(f) of the Foreign Assistance Act to –

- (1) Expand existing prohibitions on the use of U.S. foreign assistance to pay for the performance or promotion of abortions, forced sterilizations, or biomedical research relating to abortions or forced sterilizations (which currently only applies to assistance authorized by Part 1 of the FAA) to cover *all forms* of assistance under the FAA;
- (2) Permanently enact long-standing appropriations restrictions on the use of foreign assistance funds to lobby for or against abortion (i.e. the Siljander amendment); and
- (3) Permanently enact long-standing appropriations restrictions on the provision of foreign assistance funds to organizations that support or participate in the management of a program of coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization (i.e. the Kemp-Kasten amendment);

Additionally, it permanently enacts existing appropriations restrictions on the use of funds appropriated to the Peace Corps to pay for abortions.

Permanent enactment of these long-standing pro-life provisions is long overdue. Please consider co-sponsoring this important, timely bill today.