



DESTRUCTION OVER DISTRIBUTION

TRUMP-VANCE ADMINISTRATION CHOOSES DESTRUCTION OVER DISTRIBUTION FOR CONTRACEPTIVES

Since January 2025, the Trump-Vance administration has left nearly \$10 million worth of taxpayer-purchased contraceptives locked away in a warehouse in Belgium rather than distributing the medication to the women and girls in low-income countries it was meant for. Their original plan was to incinerate the commodities – by definition lighting millions of dollars on fire – but Belgian law prohibits the destruction of usable medication. So instead, the administration just left them there in unrefrigerated trucks to overheat and expire.

In the year and half since, the administration has wasted an additional \$437,317 of taxpayer money on storage fees. Every month the contraceptives remain in the warehouse cost taxpayers \$24,000. As of June 2026, only \$1.7 million worth of the contraceptives are still viable, as the other \$8 million has expired and otherwise become unusable due to their intentional removal from climate-controlled storage facilities.

During a House Appropriations Committee hearing on the State Department budget, Secretary of State Marco Rubio replied to a question from Grace Meng (D-NY-6) on the trapped commodities. “We are not going to use them. The government of the United States is not going to be involved in distributing contraceptives...around the world.”

The \$9.7 million worth of contraceptives, including birth control pills, IUDs, implants, and injectable contraceptives, had been purchased by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) – which Trump shut down in July 2025 – with the

intention of distributing them to women and girls in low-income countries, primarily in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Other organizations, such as Doctors Without Borders and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), offered to purchase the contraceptives and distribute them themselves; however, the Trump-Vance administration refused to sell or donate the products.

EFFECTS ON WOMEN AND GIRLS IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES

If these contraceptives had been distributed as they were originally intended to be, they could have helped 650,000 people prevent unintended pregnancy for one year, and depending on the type of contraceptive, over 950,000 people for three to ten years. The money that Trump has already spent to store these contraceptives could have also provided contraceptive care for 43,900 women, avoiding 15,700 unintended pregnancies and 4,800 unsafe abortions.

Trump’s demolishing of U.S. foreign assistance has worsened reproductive healthcare and contraception shortages. A 2025 study estimates that in the years 2025-2030, between 73 and 100 million people across 41 countries could have had access to contraceptives if the U.S. continued its investments in reproductive health.

SAVING LIVES AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS ACT

The [Saving Lives and Taxpayer Dollars Act \(H.R.4516/S.2252\)](#) was introduced in July 2025 in the House by Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-NY), Grace



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Meng (D-NY), and Lois Frankel (D-FL) and in the Senate by Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Brian Schatz (D-HI). The bill prohibits the intentional destruction of [foreign assistance materials](#), including food, medicine, family planning products, and medical devices, specifically targeting the contraceptives being held hostage in storage. 

SOURCES

[Trump team won't distribute up to \\$10m in contraceptives bought as aid](#) | The Independent

[Locked Away and Left to Expire: The Trump Administration's Destructive Denial of Contraceptive Care](#) | Guttmacher Institute

[Family Planning Commodities: USAID Should Provide Final Disposition Instructions to Stop Accruing Storage Costs for \\$8 Million in Unusable Items and \\$1.7 Million in Nearly Expired Items in Belgium](#) | Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Agency for International Development

[How U.S.A.I.D. Birth Control Meant for Africa Was Ruined](#) | The New York Times

[Effects of reductions in US foreign assistance on HIV, tuberculosis, family planning, and maternal and child health: a modelling study](#) | The Lancet

[\[2025-07-11\] Ranking Members Shaheen and Schatz Introduce Legislation to Prevent Lifesaving U.S. Aid from Going to Waste](#) | U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee

SAVING LIVES AND TAXPAYER DOLLARS ACT

SENATE

- **Bill Number:** S.2252
- **Sponsors:** Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Sen. Brian Schatz (D-HI)

HOUSE

- **Bill Number:** H.R.4516
- **Sponsors:** Rep. Grace Meng (D-NY-6), Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL-22), Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-1), Rep. Pramila Jayapal (D-WA-7), Rep. Sara Jacobs (D-CA-51), Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-NY-5)