

Two Devex Items - Destruction of reproductive health commodities, and rescission package. 4 Sep 2025

Is the United States about to destroy **\$9.7 billion in sexual and reproductive health commodities** on dubious grounds?

The [State Department](#) told Devex in July that it [plans to incinerate](#) — at the cost of \$167,000 — “certain abortifacient birth control commodities from terminated Biden-era USAID contracts.” Abortifacient is a fancy way of describing a substance that causes abortion. People who have actually seen the commodities, though, say that’s not at all what they do.

Instead, sources tell Devex the supplies were mostly condoms and long-acting contraceptives, such as implants and injectables. Not only are they not abortifacients, but they are **desperately needed in communities around the world**.

If the commodities are not delivered, the [Reproductive Health Supplies Coalition](#) estimates the result will be **an additional 362,000 unintended pregnancies**, 161,000 unplanned births, 110,000 unsafe abortions, and 718 preventable maternal deaths.

For decades, U.S. legislation has barred American aid from being used to support abortions. But sexual and reproductive health advocates said the planned destruction of these commodities is part of the Trump administration’s [broader attempt to end U.S. support for family planning](#).

The administration has already convinced lawmakers to [claw back \\$500 million](#) in appropriated spending, much of which was likely earmarked for family planning. And Trump’s 2026 budget proposal **would zero out family planning spending entirely**.

Read: [How \\$9.7M in lost US contraceptives disrupted family planning globally](#)

Background reading: [US Congress clears Trump's \\$9 billion rescissions package](#)

More cuts

Meanwhile, the Trump administration wants to walk back more congressionally appropriated global health spending. The White House has **proposed another nearly \$5 billion in rescissions**, which includes reclaiming \$45 million allocated to the [Pan American Health Organization](#), or PAHO.

There’s a difference between this proposal and the cancellation of \$8 billion in aid earlier this year that Congress ultimately approved ([after rescuing some global HIV funding](#)): Trump has submitted this proposal so close to the end of the fiscal year — Sept. 30 — that **the funds will expire whether or not lawmakers approve them**. It’s [a controversial process called a “pocket rescission.”](#) and it’s not even clear that it’s constitutional. It will almost certainly fall to the courts to decide if the plan can proceed.

Though global health programs were largely spared in the latest proposed cuts, **activists remain worried about future funding** — particularly in light of the administration's proposed budget for 2026, which includes nearly \$2 billion in cuts to global AIDS programming.

[Activists rallied](#) near the White House on Tuesday to **protest the administration's cuts to global health programs** and to demand full funding for the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief](#), or PEPFAR, in the upcoming budget.

Read: [Trump's \\$5B 'pocket rescission' escalates foreign aid funding fight](#)

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