

# **The Save Lives First Act of 2008**

## **SUMMARY**

*(Coburn/Burr/Kyl)*

*The Save Lives First Act of 2008 sets critical life-saving policy for any global AIDS program supported by the American people. It is not a reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), and is not intended to compete with reauthorization bills under consideration in the Congress. This bill is silent on many important policy and funding questions currently part of the reauthorization dialogue. However, the intention of the bill is to ensure that global AIDS funding, whether PEPFAR is reauthorized or not, appropriately prioritizes the following essential activities:*

### **1) LIFE-SAVING TREATMENT: THE #1 PRIORITY**

Extends the **current, successful policy** that requires at least 55% of all funding under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) to be spent on life-saving HIV/AIDS treatment.

- Sets a 5-year target to treat 7 million people for HIV/AIDS by 2013.

### **2) THE FIRST STEP: KNOW YOUR STATUS**

Sets aside 5% of PEPFAR funding to dramatically ramp up rapid HIV diagnosis to identify people who don't yet know their HIV status in order to get people in to treatment and early reduce their transmission rates through treatment and education.

- Sets a 5-year target to conduct 1 billion rapid tests by 2013.
- Sets aside 25% of this testing money to help countries implement a policy of universal, opt-out rapid HIV testing.

### **3) ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: ENDING BABY AIDS ONCE AND FOR ALL**

Sets a target of eliminating baby AIDS (babies being born infected with HIV or becoming infected during their first year through breastfeeding) in all PEPFAR countries by 2013.

- Sets out expectations for how to work towards that target by screening 100% of pregnant women and newborns in PEPFAR countries and providing prophylactic or ARV treatment for all HIV-positive moms or babies.