

TPP: Good for Pfizer's Profits, Disastrous for People with AIDS

The Obama administration is negotiating a Trans-Pacific Free Trade Agreement with terms intended, over time, to expand drug patent monopolies for about half the world. The high costs of patent monopolies, particularly for newer second- and third-line HIV/AIDS medicines — still commonly thousands of dollars per person per year — seriously limit the ability of governments and donors to scale up treatment access. High prices force impossible choices for health departments allocating fixed budgets insufficient to meet all of their public health obligations. Aid programs including the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief struggle to expand current treatment levels. The impetus for these proposed trade rules is the political and economic power of the patent-based pharmaceutical industry. Pfizer paid lobbying firm Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld \$80,000 in 2012 to lobby Congress, the US Trade Representative, The US Department of Commerce and other agencies on issues including “intellectual property protections in the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement; issues relating to the protection of U.S. intellectual property rights overseas.” TPP will also undermine labor rights and environmental protections and outsource US jobs to sweatshops. To avoid public scrutiny, the negotiators have agreed that all documents except the final text will be kept secret for four years after the agreement comes into force or the negotiations collapse- completely shutting civil society out of the negotiating process. As the negotiators meet in California this week, trade justice, AIDS, environmental, and labor rights activists will take action to expose these secret negotiations. Join us Wednesday to help make this a nation story – TPP must be brought to light!

What You Can Do

Write, call, and fax President Obama to let him know that you are outraged that he broke his campaign promise to oppose unfair NAFTA-style trade deals and that you demand that he end the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations and focusing instead on reforming or ending free trade agreements like NAFTA that have already contributed to our nation's unemployment crisis by outsourcing US jobs to overseas sweatshops. President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500 Phone: (202) 456-1111 Fax: (202) 456-2461 Email webform: <http://tradejustice.net/obama>

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