

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 17, 2016

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on State and Foreign Operations
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on State and Foreign Operations
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are writing to request you to continue critical and timely investments in global health programs, in particular the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). We greatly appreciate your past leadership in ensuring these programs are robustly funded. We look to you again as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work toward rapid acceleration of HIV prevention and treatment programs with the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and bi-lateral investments, along with multi-lateral investments in the Global Fund have been transformative in fighting the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic that was devastating countries, and the results are incredible. As of September 30, 2015, PEPFAR was supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 9.5 million men, women, and children – a more than four-fold increase just since the beginning of 2009. In FY 2015 alone, 267,000 new infections in children were averted due to PEPFAR-supported prevention of mother-child-transmission of HIV programs, and PEPFAR is supporting the training of over 190,000 health workers to deliver HIV and other medical services.

Additionally, the Global Fund has continued to scale-up its HIV/AIDS programs, and as of mid-2015, programs financed by the Global Fund have supported treatment for 8.6 million people living with HIV/AIDS; detected and treated 15 million cases of tuberculosis; and distributed 600 million insecticide treated nets for the prevention of malaria. Historically, for every \$1 invested by the United States, \$2 has been committed by other governments around the world, and additional resources are contributed by private sector partners - a good return on investment that ensures that the response to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared.

These investments and efforts not only improve HIV care, they enable countries to improve the overall health of their citizens by creating a lasting infrastructure that positions partner countries to respond to a range of health challenges and threats. In 2015, PEPFAR announced bold new targets: by the end of 2017, PEPFAR will support 12.9 million men, women, and children with life-saving treatment, provide 13 million voluntary medical male circumcisions, and reduce HIV incidence by 40 percent among adolescent girls and young women within the highest burden geographic areas of ten sub-Saharan African countries. Similarly, in December 2015, the Global Fund released a new three-year plan to raise resources for programmatic work between 2017 and

2019. This plan has outlined ambitious goals which would enable the Global Fund partnership to support countries to achieve the following: avert 300 million new infections across the three diseases; save up to 8 million lives; as well as contribute to healthier and more productive populations that will lay the groundwork for broad economic gains over the coming years.

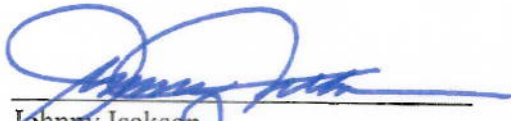
Through U.S. leadership and by partnering with developing countries, these investments also contribute to the stability of countries where investments are made. A recent report by former Senators Bill Frist and Tom Daschle noted PEPFAR is a “potential example of strategic health diplomacy – and a model for smart, effective and bi-partisan foreign policy.” Providing robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund encases U.S. leadership in the world, and increases our ability to strengthen health systems that protect against virulent disease outbreaks, while making progress in combatting tuberculosis and malaria.

Finally, as you know, the research and development work on an AIDS vaccine continues to yield important scientific breakthroughs. American researchers, as well as small- and medium-sized biotechnology companies, are driving much of this innovative research that has not only moved us closer to a game-changing medical breakthrough, but it also positions the United States to lead a global prevention revolutions that will save both money and lives. We ask that you consider including FY2017 report language that continues to demonstrate our continued commitment to this effort. The language would highlight that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against malaria and HIV, and it would encourage USAID to continue funding to support their advancement.


We are on track to achieving an AIDS-free generation—but without continued support our gains could quickly recede. We once again look to your leadership in the fight against this deadly disease.

Thank you for considering our request and for your ongoing critical leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Kelly A. Ayotte
United States Senator



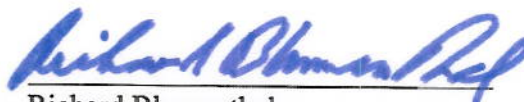
Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



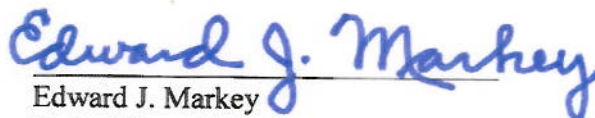
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator




Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



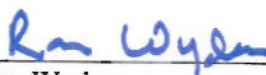
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



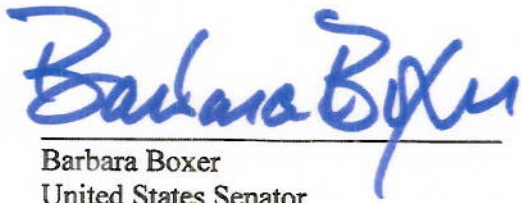
Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

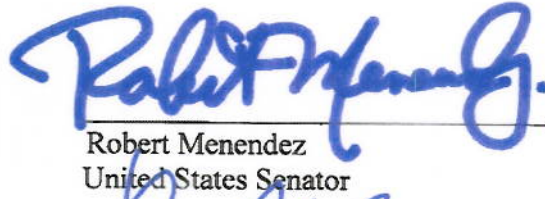


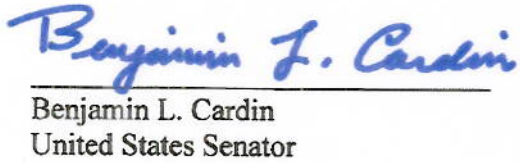
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

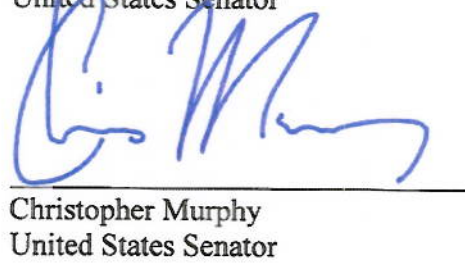


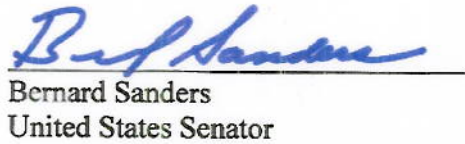
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

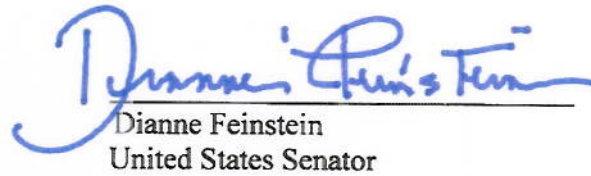

Barbara Boxer
United States Senator

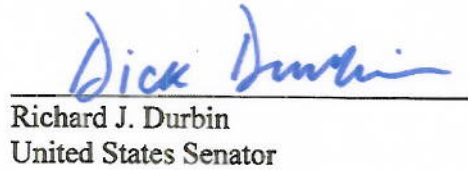

Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Christopher Murphy
United States Senator


Bernard Sanders
United States Senator


Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator

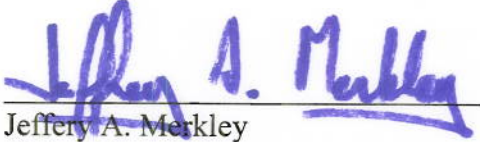

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



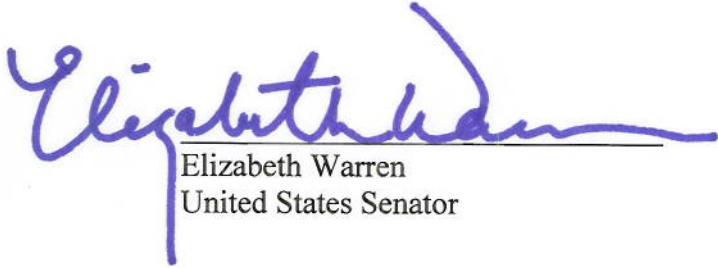
Al Franken
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jeffery A. Merkley
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator