

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 19, 2022

The Honorable Christopher Coons  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on the Department of State,  
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
127 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on the Department of State,  
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
125 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Coons and Ranking Member Graham:

We are writing to request that you continue critical 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) in advance of its Seventh Replenishment in the Fall of 2022. We are grateful for your leadership in ensuring these programs continue to be robustly funded, and look to you again as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work towards the rapid acceleration of HIV prevention and treatment programs with the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic while protecting projects from the impacts of COVID-19.

U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and other bilateral investments, along with multilateral investments in the Global Fund over time, have been transformative in fighting the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic, and the results are astounding. In 2021, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 18.96 million people. Through PEPFAR support, over 7.1 million orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers accessed critical care and support services and since its inception, more than 2.8 million new infections were averted in children.

At the same time, the Global Fund's efforts have saved over 44 million lives since its inception in 2002. In 2020, the Global Fund supported 21.9 million people on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, treated 4.7 million people for TB, and distributed 188 million insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention.

Similar to HIV, progress on the TB epidemic hinges on finding the over three million people "missed" by health systems each year. By focusing on 20 countries that account for a majority of missing people with TB globally, Global Fund investments contributed to over one million additional TB case notifications by the end of 2019. As the host of the Global Fund's Seventh Replenishment this fall, now represents a critical time for the U.S. to display strong international leadership in the fight against these diseases.

Despite the tremendous progress made on HIV globally, every week, around 6,000 young women aged 15-24 are infected with HIV worldwide. PEPFAR and the Global Fund are

prioritizing programs that support adolescent girls and young women to access critical and innovative prevention and treatment programming.

The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic remind us that results are vulnerable to backsliding, potentially undoing years of progress. It is disrupting essential health services, leading to secondary impacts of the disease. This is especially evident in HIV testing and prevention services in many countries. Recent Global Fund data has shown drops in the number of people accessing HIV testing services by over 20%, compared to 2019. The number of people reached with prevention services overall declined by 11% and other key prevention programs such as Voluntary Medical Male Circumcision (VMMC) fell almost 30% due to the pandemic.

In 2020, Countries also reported a 25% decrease in the number of pregnant women accessing prevention of mother to child transmission services. Disruptions to global supply chains has led to further challenges, including stock outs of contraceptive commodities and pediatric treatments. COVID-19 has also led to rising rates of gender-based violence and is putting already vulnerable populations like adolescent girls and young women at even higher risk of HIV acquisition. The pandemic is the biggest test these programs have faced and they are rising to the challenge, but additional resources are critical to mitigate these impacts and drive further results.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund are leading global efforts to not only improve HIV care, but also 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 like Ebola and COVID-19. The investments not only improve the lasting health of partner countries, but also serve as a first response to emerging threats to global health and the global economy. Providing robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund bolsters the United States' relationship in the world and increases our ability to strengthen health systems that protect against virulent disease outbreaks, while making progress in combatting HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

These successes are only possible because of longstanding bi-partisan support for the programs. Congress's recent extension of the PEPFAR program and the U.S. participation in the Global Fund, and the leadership shown by hosting the upcoming Seventh Replenishment of the Global Fund reinforce a renewed commitment to ending AIDS as a global health threat. Thank you for considering our request for robust funding and for your ongoing leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



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Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator

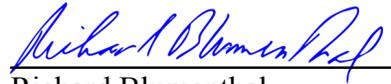


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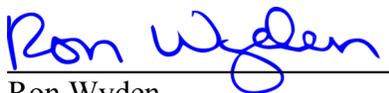
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United States Senator



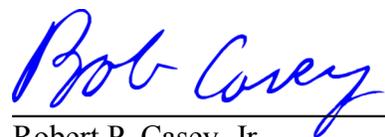
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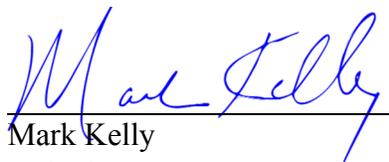
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United States Senator



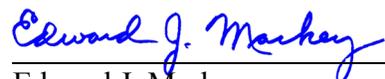
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