

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 12, 2023

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

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
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 the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations bill, in particular the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). 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 rebuilding projects from the impacts of COVID-19.

This year marks the twentieth anniversary of PEPFAR's creation. First announced by President George W. Bush in his 2003 State of the Union address as an "opportunity to do so much for so many," the PEPFAR program has shown what can be accomplished through U.S. leadership. The bold vision of the PEPFAR program paired with enduring, consistent bipartisan Congressional support is responsible for saving 25 million lives.

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 2022, PEPFAR supported lifesaving antiretroviral treatment for 20.1 million people. Through PEPFAR support, over 7.0 million orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers accessed critical care and support services and since its inception, more than 5.5 million new infections were averted in children.

At the same time, the Global Fund's efforts have saved over 50 million lives since its inception in 2002. In 2021, the Global Fund supported 23.3 million people on antiretroviral treatment for HIV, treated 5.3 million people for Tuberculosis (TB), and distributed 133 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 last fall, bold U.S. leadership spurred the largest amount ever raised for the partnership and incentivized several nations to increase their pledges.

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.

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 enduring investments in the PEPFAR program and the U.S. participation in 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,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



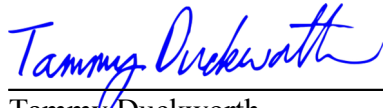
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



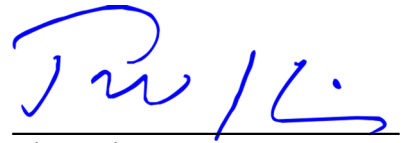
Richard J. Durbin
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Robert Menendez
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Tammy Duckworth
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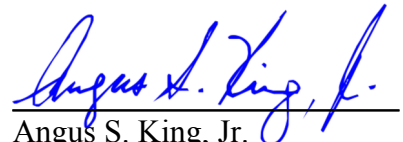
Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



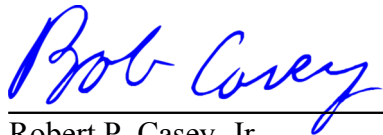
Thomas R. Carper
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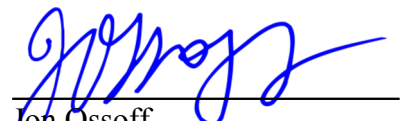
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United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
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Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator



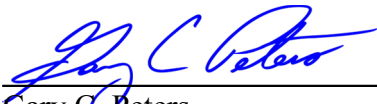
Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



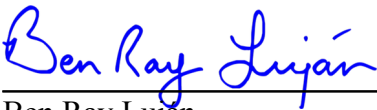
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



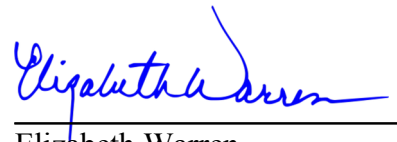
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



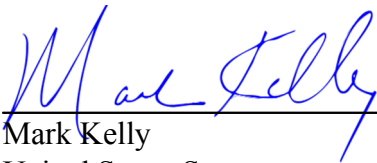
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Ben Ray Lujan
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Elizabeth Warren
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Mark Kelly
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Jacky Rosen
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Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



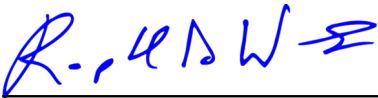
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Kirsten Gillibrand
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Raphael Warnock
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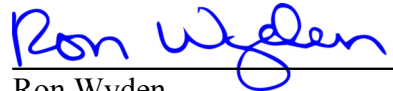
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



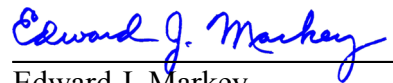
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



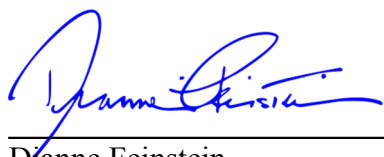
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



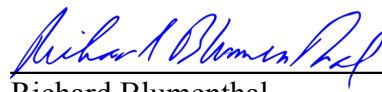
Amy Klobuchar
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