

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
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 Brian Schatz
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 Graham and Ranking Member Schatz:

We are writing to request that you continue critical investments in global health programs in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 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.

Specifically, we ask that you provide \$4.395 billion for PEPFAR, level with Fiscal Year 2025. Additionally, for the Global Fund, we request \$2 billion for the first year of the eighth replenishment. This is the same request as enacted in FY23, the first year of the previous replenishment.

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. As of September 30, 2024, PEPFAR supported lifesaving antiretroviral treatment for nearly 20.6 million people. Through PEPFAR support, 7.0 million orphans, vulnerable children, and their caregivers accessed critical care and support services and since its inception, more than 7 million new infections were averted in children. The bold vision of the PEPFAR program paired with enduring, consistent bipartisan Congressional support is responsible for saving 26 million lives.

The Global Fund's investments have saved over 65 million lives since its inception in 2002. In 2023 alone, the Global Fund supported 25 million people on life-saving antiretroviral therapy for HIV, treated 7.1 million people for TB and distributed 227 million mosquito nets to protect families from malaria. Between 2010 and 2023, these investments reduced the number of new HIV infections among adolescent women and young girls by 69% within the 13 priority countries where the HIV burden is highest.

One in three people living with HIV die of tuberculosis—the leading cause of death for people living with HIV. In 2023, the Global Fund provided antiretroviral therapy for 335,000 TB patients living with HIV. Progress on the TB epidemic hinges on finding the over three million people “missed” by health systems each year. By deploying advanced diagnostics and prioritizing finding those missing populations, the Global fund has increased TB coverage 70% in 2023, up from 45% in 2010.

This year, international donors will look to the U.S. for leadership during the Global Fund’s replenishment campaign. A \$2 billion investment would save an estimated 2.5 million lives from the world’s deadliest diseases. The U.S. should maintain the requirement that every dollar from the U.S. be matched by two dollars from all other donors. Maintaining that ratio would leverage an additional \$4 billion from other donors and preserve U.S. influence at the Global Fund. U.S. law has limited contributions to 33% of the Global Fund’s budget. As a result, every \$1 contributed by the U.S. has been matched by \$2 from other donors—firmly establishing U.S. leadership while ensuring that we do not fight these deadly diseases alone. For its 8th Replenishment, the Global Fund is seeking \$18 billion over three years from donors globally; a \$2 billion contribution in FY26 is consistent with the U.S. historically providing one-third of Global Fund resources. Fully funded, the Global Fund could save 23 million lives and avert 400 million new infections during the next funding period.

Despite the tremendous progress made on HIV globally, every week, around 4,000 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 Marburg virus. 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, as well as preventing infectious diseases from reaching our shores. 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.

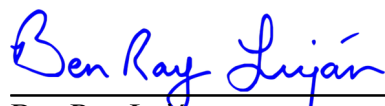
As we work to maintain our commitments to PEPFAR and the Global Fund, investment in the research and development of an HIV/AIDS vaccine must continue. Vaccines are highly powerful and cost-effective tools for controlling the spread of a virus. Continued investments by the U.S. Government could lead the way to stopping HIV/AIDS in its tracks.

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. PEPFAR and the Global Fund's longstanding successes are due to the lasting partnership between Congress and changing administrations, we cannot cede our role in the future of these programs nor risk undermining U.S. strength, security, safety, and prosperity. Thank you for considering our request for robust funding and for your ongoing leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



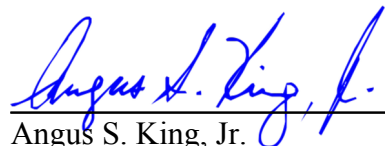
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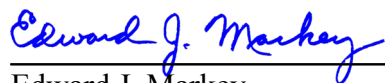
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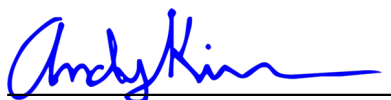
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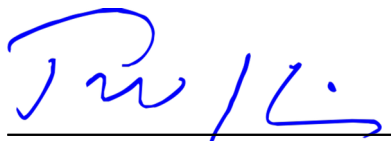
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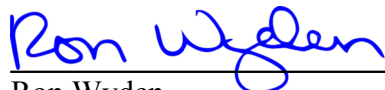
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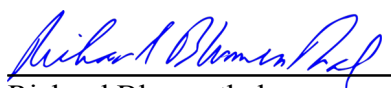
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