

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 30, 2026

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

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on the Department of State,
Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Schatz:

Thank you for your leadership on the Senate Committee on Appropriations and its Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs. As you begin to prepare your bill for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27), we respectfully 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). Timely bipartisan support of these programs is crucial as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work towards the necessary acceleration of HIV prevention and treatment to reach the goal of ending AIDS as a public health threat by 2030.

PEPFAR was 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 well over 25 million lives.

The impact of U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and other bilateral investments — through the State Department and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention — alongside multilateral commitments to the Global Fund has been transformative in the global fight against HIV/AIDS. The results are not just impressive on paper; they represent real lives saved, increased economic partnerships, and communities given the chance to move forward. As of September 30, 2024, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 20.6 million people and has averted more than 7.8 million new infections in children since its inception. And PEPFAR-supported countries also experienced 2.1% higher GDP per capita growth than they would have seen without the program.

Similarly, the Global Fund's investments have saved over 70 million lives since its inception in

2002. In 2024 alone, the Global Fund supported 25.6 million people on life-saving antiretroviral therapy for HIV. Since the Global Fund was established in 2002, 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. The administration recommitted to this 1:2 match last fall and pledged \$4.6 billion for the next three years. This would save an estimated 1.9 million lives, prevent 34 million new infections from the three diseases, and support 2.4 million people on lifesaving antiretroviral therapy for HIV.

Despite significant progress in the fight against HIV/AIDS, the work is not over. 9.2 million people — nearly a quarter of those living with HIV — are still not able to access the antiretroviral therapy they need to survive and thrive. With more than 40 million people living with HIV globally, prevention efforts, including those like the new twice-a year injectable lenacapavir, must be scaled up.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund are leading global efforts to not only improve the HIV response but also enable countries to increase investments in their domestic HIV response and to take on more of the financial and structural burdens of HIV programs. This approach will improve the overall health of their citizens by boosting local community capacity that positions partner countries to respond to a range of health challenges and threats. Providing strong support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund bolsters the United States' standing and cooperative relationship with the world, increasing our ability to strengthen health systems to mitigate disease outbreaks that risk impacting us here at home.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund are highlighted and supported in the President's 2027 Budget request. The continued success of these programs, however, is only possible with continued strong bipartisan Congressional support. Congress' enduring investments in the PEPFAR program and the U.S. participation in the Global Fund reinforce our commitment to ending AIDS as a global health threat. We support ongoing efforts to ensure a robust HIV response centered on accountability and coordination with Congressional input. Thank you for considering our request for robust funding and for your ongoing bipartisan commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



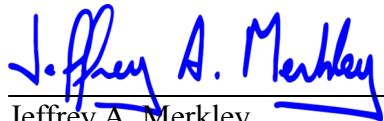
Steve Daines
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
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Thom Tillis
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Jeffrey A. Merkley
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David H. McCormick
United States Senator