Write a Letter to the Editor for World AIDS Day

Each year on the first of December, World AIDS Day, a red ribbon hangs on the North Portico of the White House to commemorate the 35 million people who have lost their lives to the disease. Write a letter to the editor to make sure the country continues not just that symbolical gesture, but the U.S. commitment to investing in the continued fight against AIDS worldwide.

Two months ago, global leaders pooled their financial resources in support of [a plan](http://theglobalfund.org/documents/publications/other/Publication_InvestmentCase_Summary_en/) to save eight million lives in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The U.S. came forward with a [matching commitment](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2016/08/31/statement-national-security-advisor-susan-e-rice-united-states-global) of up to $4.3 billion over three years for that plan, pledging to put in one dollar for every two dollars committed by others. But it will fall to the new Congress to actually make good on this commitment and deliver those financial resources in the years ahead.

At the global gathering in September, world leaders threw their support behind the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the leading financier of the fight against the three diseases. The Global Fund sought $13 billion to support countries around the world to tackle these epidemics, preventing 300 million new infections and saving 8 million lives by 2020.

Thanks to [the commitments](http://theglobalfund.org/en/montreal2016/) of the U.S. and other governments, the Global Fund now has the resources to start putting that plan into action. It will do this by supporting countries to scale up proven treatments, target the people who need it most, and work with local communities to make sure every dollar is maximized.

When the Global Fund began in 2002, AIDS was ripping through communities worldwide. TB and malaria were rampant. At that point, the Global Fund was supporting countries just to help stop as many deaths as possible. Since then, this partnership has saved [20 million lives](http://theglobalfund.org/en/blog/2016-09-01_20_Million_Lives/). Now because of major innovations and scientific advances, this work is not just about preventing deaths anymore. It’s about ending all three epidemics once and for all.

Since the Global Fund’s inception, the U.S. has played a leading role in the partnership, including providing a full one-third of the Global Fund’s financial resources. U.S. support for the Global Fund has always been uniquely bipartisan, crossing party lines when often not much else could.

The last two Administrations and both parties in Congress have established the United States as a leader in this fight. It will be up to our new leaders to reaffirm this commitment and help move us closer to the end of the epidemics for good.

**Why write a letter to the editor?**

Writing a letter to the editor is a great way to make sure our government’s commitment to this fight continues. Your senators and representatives are reading your local paper, and they need to hear from you. After the election, there’s even more reason to remind our leaders that we’re counting on them to act. Even one published letter can make a big difference!

**Tips**

* Keep your letter short. Check your newspaper for their length requirements, or simply keep the letter to 150-200 words.
* Make the letter personal. Customize with your own ideas, examples, and passion.
* Keep a look out for your letter in print and, if you're published, share on social media and with your members of Congress.
* Let RESULTS staff know you've been published, too!

**Sample LTE**

To the Editor:

On December 1 we’ll mark World AIDS Day, memorializing the 35 million people who have lost their lives to this disease.

Two months ago, global leaders pooled their financial resources in support of [a plan](http://theglobalfund.org/documents/publications/other/Publication_InvestmentCase_Summary_en/) to save eight million lives in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. The U.S. made a matching pledge of up to $4.3 billion over three years for that plan, committing to put in one dollar for every two dollars from others. But it will fall to the new Congress to actually make good on this promise and deliver the money in the years ahead.

U.S. support for global health has always been bipartisan, crossing party lines when often not much else could. I hope we can count on [Your Senator], [Your Senator], and [Your Representative] to continue this legacy.

[YOUR NAME]