

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 18, 2015

Support Funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund

****This is a Programmatic Request****

Deadline: March 25, 2015

Dear Colleague:

Please join us in urging the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee to strongly support the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bill. Through robust funding of PEPFAR and the Global Fund, we can continue to fully capitalize on our prior investments and continue the fight against these terrible diseases.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund have begun to turn the corner on one of the gravest epidemics in history. Every American can be very proud of our globally recognized leadership in this area. Impoverished countries most affected by HIV have been stepping up their commitment by allocating more of their own resources, and PEPFAR has been able to strategically focus on the highest-impact geographic areas and the most vulnerable populations. According to director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, "we can end the AIDS pandemic in 10 years." Now is not the time to turn back on realizing this projection.

Strong bipartisan support of PEPFAR and the Global Fund not only saves lives, but also contributes directly to global stability, security, and economic growth and bolsters U.S. image and interests abroad. Providing robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund will enhance U.S. leadership in the world and increase our ability to strengthen health systems that protect against virulent disease outbreaks, such as Ebola, while also making progress in combating tuberculosis, malaria, and other diseases endemic to developing countries.

U.S. aid dollars spent on PEPFAR and the Global Fund are not a gift to developing nations, but a strategic global investment made with our partners. For example, for every \$1 invested by the United States, the Global Fund leverages \$2 from other donors - a substantial return on investment that ensures that the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared between more partners. Moreover, scientific advances in vaccines to fight HIV and malaria continue to yield important developments that position the United States to lead a global prevention revolution that will save lives and money.

We hope you will join us in urging the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Subcommittee to provide robust funding for PEPFAR, the Global Fund, and the continued support of vaccine development in the fiscal year 2016 appropriations bill.

The deadline to sign onto this letter is close of business on **March 25, 2015**. To sign on please contact: **Ryan Evans** in Senator Isakson's office (Ryan_Evans@isakson.senate.gov) or **Christy Gleason** in Senator Coons' office (Christy_Gleason@coons.senate.gov).

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson



Christopher A. Coons

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are writing to urge you to continue critical and timely 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. We are grateful for your support and leadership last year, when your committee began to restore much-needed funds to PEPFAR. During 2013 and 2014, PEPFAR averaged 1.3 million new enrollments on life-saving medication annually, and sustaining this level of activity and support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund are necessary to realize Dr. Anthony Fauci's projection that "we can end the AIDS pandemic in 10 years."

We urge the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee's budget to include funding sufficient to sustain PEPFAR's average pace of scale-up for core treatment and prevention interventions during 2013 and 2014, and also to deepen the impact and increasing the geographic reach of PEPFAR's Accelerating Children's Treatment initiative the DREAMS Partnership. In addition, we should maintain the U.S. commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). For every \$1 invested by the United States, the Global Fund leverages \$2 from other donors-- a good return on investment that ensures that the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared between more partners. The cuts in the president's FY16 budget request could damage our ability to fully capitalize on our prior investments and continue the fight against these terrible diseases.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund have begun to turn the corner on one of the gravest epidemics in history. Every American can be very proud of our globally recognized leadership in this area. Experts questioned that the UN High-Level meeting's 2011 commitment to reach 15 million people with treatment by 2015, but U.S. leadership ensured that this target would be met and likely even exceeded. Impoverished countries most affected by HIV have been stepping up their commitment by allocating more and more of their own resources, and PEPFAR has been able to strategically focus on the highest-impact geographic areas and the most vulnerable populations. Now is not the time to turn back.

Strong bipartisan support of PEPFAR and the Global Fund not only saves lives, but also contributes directly to global stability, security and economic growth and bolsters U.S. image and interests abroad. Providing robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund will enhance U.S. leadership in the world and increase our ability to strengthen health systems that protect against virulent disease outbreaks, such as Ebola, while making progress in combating tuberculosis and malaria.

Finally, as you know, the research and development work on an AIDS vaccine continues to yield important scientific breakthroughs. American researchers, as well as small- and medium- sized biotechnology companies, are driving much of this innovative research that has not only moved us closer to a game-changing medical breakthrough, but it also positions the United States to lead a global prevention revolution that will save both money and lives. We ask that you consider including FY2016 report language that continues to demonstrate our continued collective commitment to funding this groundbreaking effort, highlighting that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against malaria and HIV, and encouraging USAID to continue funding to support their advancement.

Thank you for considering our request and for your ongoing leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS at home and around the world.

Sincerely,