

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2019

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

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on State Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are writing to request that 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) continue consistent with fiscal year 2019 funding levels. We greatly appreciate your past leadership in ensuring these programs are robustly funded. We look to you again as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work to accelerate HIV prevention and treatment programs with the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

Sixteen years ago, the PEPFAR program was created under President George W. Bush and it has continued through both Republican and Democratic administrations. U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and other bilateral investments, along with multilateral investments in the Global Fund, have been transformative in fighting the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic. In 2018, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for over 14.6 million people, including more than 700,000 children. Through PEPFAR support, more than 270,000 new health workers received critical training to deliver HIV treatment and other medical services.

Additionally, the Global Fund plays a critical role in combatting HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. The Global Fund 2018 results report shows that programs financed by the Global Fund resulted in 17.5 million people receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS; 5 million people receiving treatment for tuberculosis; and the distribution of 197 million insecticide treated nets for the prevention of malaria. For every \$1 invested by the United States, \$2 has been committed by other governments around the world, and additional resources are contributed by private sector partners - a strong return on investment that ensures that the response to fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared by the international community. For this reason, the U.S. should continue to maintain a strong investment in the Global Fund, as it has historically provided 33% of the Fund's total resources.

These investments and efforts not only improve HIV care, they 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. Providing robust support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund bolsters the United States' relationships in the world, and increases our ability to strengthen health systems that protect against virulent disease outbreaks, while making progress in combatting 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 also positions the United States to lead a global prevention revolution that will save both money and lives. We ask that you consider including FY2020 report language that demonstrates our continued commitment to this effort. The language should highlight that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against malaria and HIV, and it would encourage USAID to continue funding to support their advancement.

With the committee's support, we can remain on track to achieving an AIDS-free generation. We once again look to your leadership in the fight against this deadly disease.

Thank you for considering our request and for your ongoing critical leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS.

Sincerely,




Johnny Isakson
United States Senator




Cory A. Booker
United States Senator




Dan Sullivan
United States Senator




Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



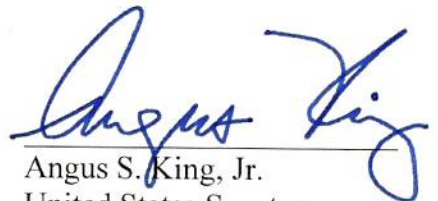
Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



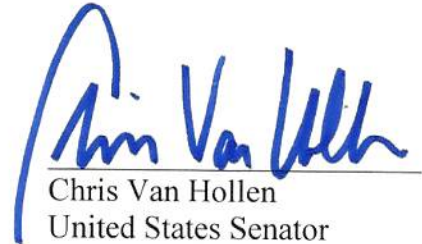
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United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



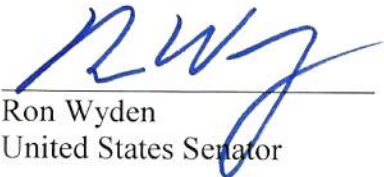
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



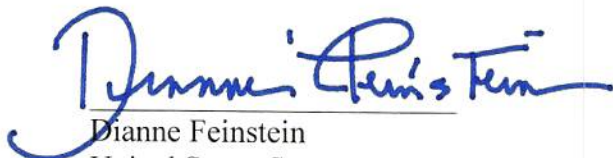
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Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator


Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator


Mazie Hirono
United States Senator

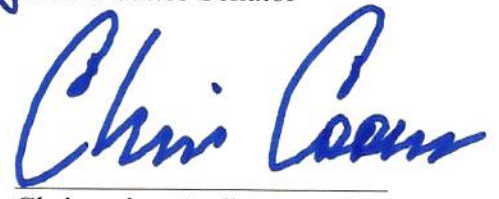

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Christopher S. Murphy
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