United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2014

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chairman
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on State and Foreign Operations,
Russell Senate Office Building, 437
Washington, DC 205150

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee
on State and Foreign Operations,
Russell Senate Office Building, 290
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Graham,

We thank you for your continued commitment to global health and fighting HIV/AIDS through investments in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Our strong support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund, coupled with scientific advances and lessons learned from a decade of implementation, has the potential to turn the tide on HIV/AIDS and help us meet our target of achieving an AIDS-free generation. As you begin to consider the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Appropriations Bill, we offer our strong support for robust funding for the Global Fund, PEPFAR, and for HIV/AIDS vaccine research so that we can fully capitalize on our prior investments and on recent scientific advances.

The bipartisan commitment to PEPFAR and the Global Fund not only saves lives, but also contributes directly to stability, security and economic growth worldwide. As of September 30, 2013, PEPFAR had directly supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for nearly 6.7 million people. In FY 2013, PEPFAR supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 12.8 million pregnant women and antiretroviral drug prophylaxis to prevent mother-to-child transmission in nearly 780,000 of these women who tested positive for HIV, allowing approximately 240,000 infants to be born HIV-free. Since 2002, Global Fund-supported countries and programs have achieved remarkable results: 6.1 million people have been treated for HIV/AIDS; 11.2 million people have received treatment for tuberculosis; and 360 million insecticide-treated nets have been distributed.

Our support through PEPFAR and the Global Fund is dramatically reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS in developing countries. PEPFAR has a long record of bipartisan support in Congress and continues to increase international goodwill toward the United States. As a result of the successes of PEPFAR in preventing and treating HIV, recipient countries are increasing their investments in HIV/AIDS and health care programs, leading to more country ownership of efforts previously lead by PEPFAR alone. In 2012, the United States and South Africa entered a bilateral partnership agreement to transition HIV/AIDS programming to South African control, with significant South African funding over the coming five years.

Through its new funding and partnership models, the Global Fund can use proven interventions and current epidemiological data to achieve greater impact, allowing the organization to shift from the emergency response it provided over a decade ago to one of long-term sustainability. In December 2013, world leaders gathered in Washington D.C. to pledge $12 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the next three years. For every $1 invested by the U.S., the Global Fund leverages at least $2 from other donors, making it an incredible return on investment of American

taxpayer dollars, and now the Global Fund is better positioned than ever to help accelerate progress on HIV/AIDS, as well as contain tuberculosis and malaria.

Finally, as you know, the research and development work on an AIDS vaccine continues to yield important scientific breakthroughs. Vaccines are highly powerful and cost-effective tools for controlling the spread of a virus and sustained, bipartisan federal support has led significant progress in recent years. 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.

By supporting appropriate levels of funding for this program now and in the future, the United States can continue its leadership role, mitigating the global impact of HIV/AIDS in a way that will help end this pandemic once and for all. We would ask that you consider including report language that continues to demonstrate our continued collective commitment to funding this groundbreaking effort similar to that which was included in the FY2014 Report on the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill highlighting that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against malaria and HIV and encouraging USAID to continue funding to support their advancement in the FY 2015 Report.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and, once again, for your ongoing leadership in fighting HIV/AIDS and continued support for global health issues.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator

Richard Durbin
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Ron Wyden
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

Saxby Chambliss
United States Senator