

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 30, 2015

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on State and Foreign Operations  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee  
on State and Foreign Operations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

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

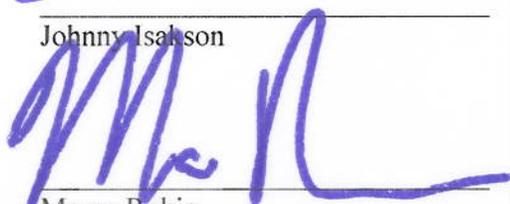
global prevention revolution that will save both money and lives. We ask that you consider including FY2016 report language that continues to demonstrate our continued collective commitment to funding this groundbreaking effort, highlighting that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against 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.

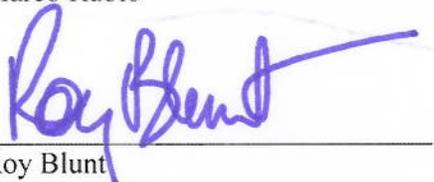
Sincerely,



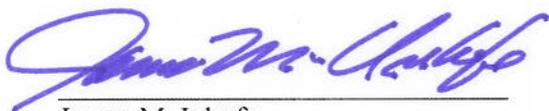
Johnny Isakson



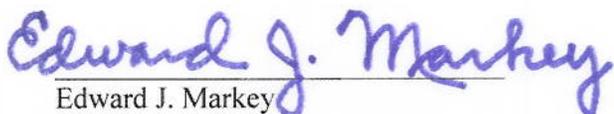
Marco Rubio



Roy Blunt



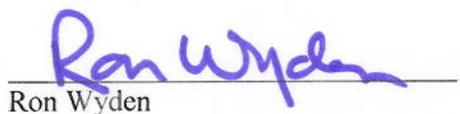
James M. Inhofe



Edward J. Markey



Bernard Sanders



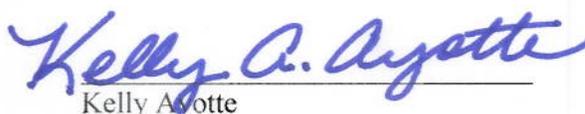
Ron Wyden



Tom Udall



Christopher A. Coons



Kelly Ayotte



Lamar Alexander



Benjamin L. Cardin



Richard Blumenthal



Kirsten E. Gillibrand

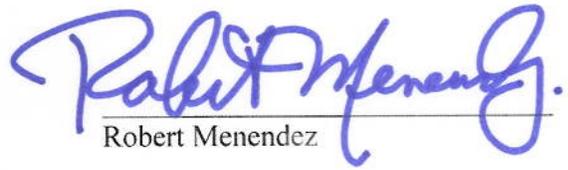


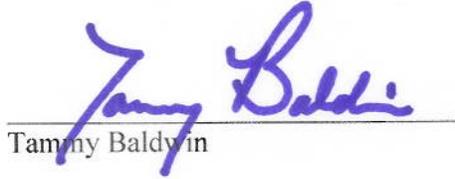
Richard J. Durbin



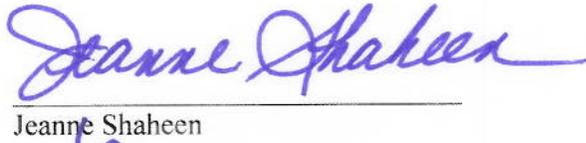
Maria Cantwell

  
Gary C. Peters

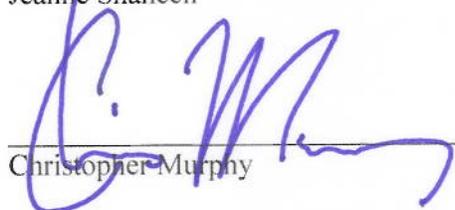
  
Robert Menendez

  
Tammy Baldwin

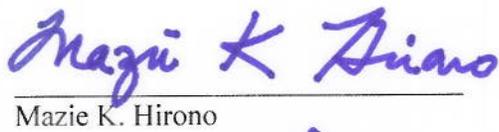
  
Sheldon Whitehouse

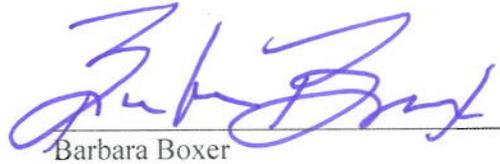
  
Jeanne Shaheen

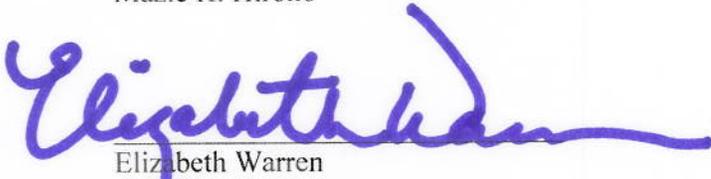
  
Charles E. Schumer

  
Christopher Murphy

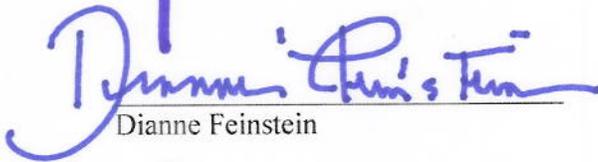
  
Martin Heinrich

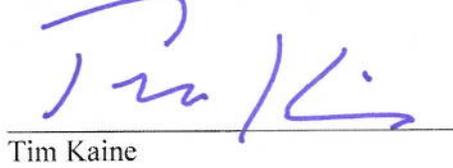
  
Mazie K. Hirono

  
Barbara Boxer

  
Elizabeth Warren

  
Debbie Stabenow

  
Dianne Feinstein

  
Tim Kaine

  
Sherrod Brown

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