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13TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY COMMITTEE

**COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS**

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Labor, Health and Human Services, Education,  
and Related Agencies

Member, Subcommittee on  
State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET**



**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

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March 23, 2015

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Appropriations Subcommittee for  
State and Foreign Operations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Appropriations Subcommittee for  
State and Foreign Operations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member Lowey:

We thank you for your continued commitment to global health, to investments in 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 the committee began to restore critical funds that have been cut from PEPFAR since 2011. Our strong support for PEPFAR and the Global Fund, coupled with scientific advances and lessons learned from 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) 2016 appropriations bill, we encourage you to allocate \$1.35 billion for the Global Fund, \$4.88 billion for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), funding that is urgently needed to fully capitalize on our prior investments and continue the fight against this terrible disease. We also ask that you support funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Global AIDS Programs at \$132 million and \$350 million for the USAID HIV/AIDS program.

Globally, our support through PEPFAR and the Global Fund is dramatically reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS in developing countries. To date, PEPFAR has supported over 7.7 million people with lifesaving treatment, has prevented millions from becoming infected with HIV, and as of last month, it reached one of its greatest milestones yet—the birth of the one millionth baby to be born HIV-free. As of September 30, 2014, PEPFAR is supporting life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 7.7 million men, women, and children. Between FY2010 and FY2014, PEPFAR supported country governments in adding 141,677 new health care workers to the health system in sub-Saharan Africa and worldwide. In FY2014 alone, PEPFAR provided care and support for more than 5 million orphans and vulnerable children, supported HIV testing and counseling for more than 56.7 million people (14.2 million of whom were pregnant women), and supported more than 6.5 million voluntary medical male circumcisions to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. That is why we urge you to maintain funding sufficient to sustain PEPFAR's average pace of scale-up for core treatment and prevention intervention, and to also deepen the impact and increasing the geographic reach of PEPFAR's Accelerating Children's Treatment initiative as well as the program's DREAMS Partnership.

The Global Fund is better positioned than ever to help accelerate progress on HIV/AIDS, as well as contain tuberculosis and malaria. Global Fund investments, including through work with its partners,

have also produced remarkable results. As of December 2014, Global Fund-financed programs have supported treatment for 7.3 million people living with HIV/AIDS; detected and treated 12.3 million cases of tuberculosis; and distributed 450 million insecticide treated nets for the prevention of malaria. 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 response to fighting AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared between more partners. And while the U.S. has historically been the largest donor, the pooling of resources from the global community ensures the burden of the response to the three diseases does not rest solely on American taxpayers. If the U.S. pulls back at this critical moment, not only do we risk rolling back the successes achieved to date, but it will send a signal to other countries that it is acceptable for them to retreat from funding as well.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund have begun to turn the corner on one of the gravest epidemics in history, and the United States' globally recognized leadership in this area is something that every American can be proud of. Experts thought that the UN High-Level meeting's 2011 commitment to reach 15 million people with treatment by 2015 was impossible, but U.S. leadership ensured that this target would be met, and likely even exceeded. Impoverished countries the hardest hit by HIV have been progressively stepping up with more and more of their own resources, and PEPFAR has been able to strategically focusing on the highest-impact geographic areas and the most vulnerable populations. It's no time to turn back now.

The U.S.'s strong bipartisan commitment to PEPFAR and the Global Fund not only saves lives, but also contributes directly to stability, security and economic growth worldwide and boosts America's image abroad. Restoring cuts to PEPFAR and sustaining support for 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 and other deadly infectious diseases, while making progress in combating tuberculosis and malaria.

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

Sincerely,

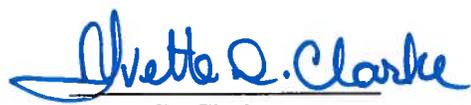
  
Jim McDermott  
Member of Congress

  
Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress

  
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress

  
Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

  
Filemon Vela  
Member of Congress

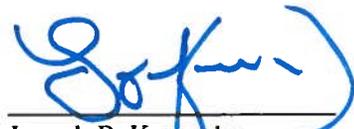
  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

  
Chris Van Hollen  
Member of Congress

  
John P. Sarbanes  
Member of Congress

  
Katherine Clark  
Member of Congress

  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Joseph P. Kennedy  
Member of Congress

  
Carolyn B. Maloney  
Member of Congress

  
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress

  
Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress

  
Joaquin Castro  
Member of Congress

  
Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress

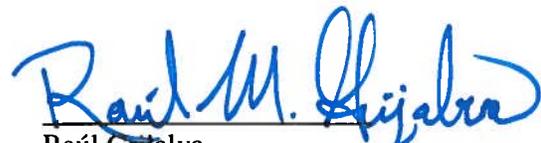


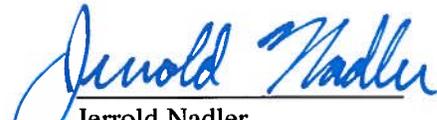
Danny K. Davis  
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Member of Congress

  
Earl Blumenauer  
Member of Congress

  
David E. Price  
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Raúl Grijalva  
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Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

  
Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress

  
Al Green  
Member of Congress

  
Bobby Scott  
Member of Congress



Donna F. Edwards  
Member of Congress



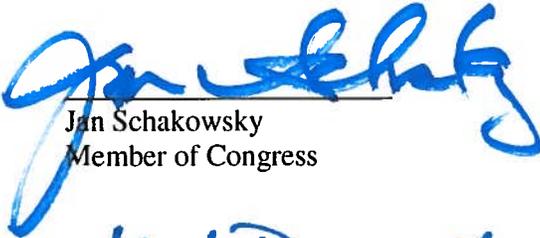
Terri A. Sewell  
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



Karen Bass  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



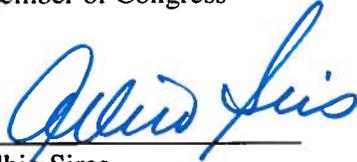
Mark Pocan  
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Lloyd Doggett  
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Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress



Albio Sires  
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Donald Norcross  
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Lois Capps  
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Zoe Lofgren  
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Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Susan A. Davis  
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David Scott  
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Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

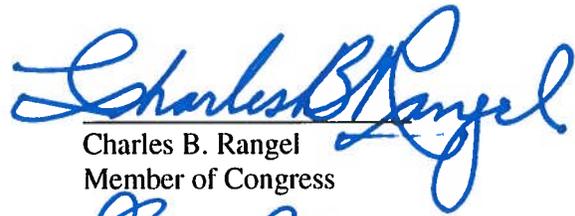


Elijah E. Cummings  
Member of Congress



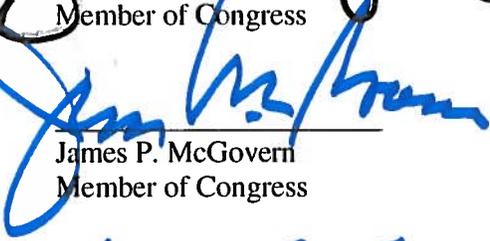
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John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress



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Peter DeFazio  
Member of Congress



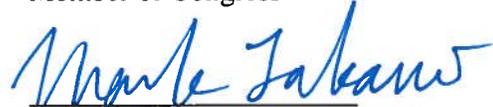
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Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



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Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress



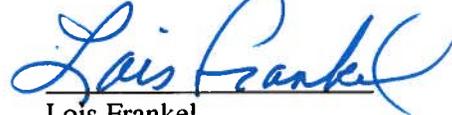
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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



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Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



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Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress



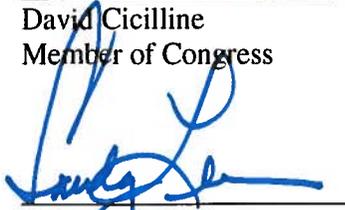
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David Cicilline  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Sander Levin  
Member of Congress



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Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



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Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress



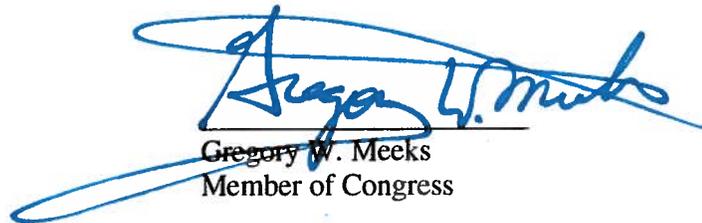
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Alcee L. Hastings  
Member of Congress



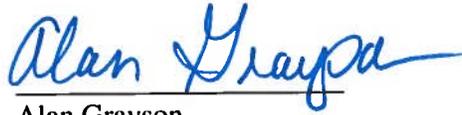
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Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



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Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



Alan Grayson  
Member of Congress



André Carson  
Member of Congress



Dan Kildee  
Member of Congress



Anne McLane Kuster  
Member of Congress



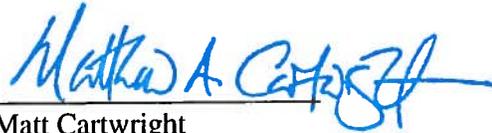
Beto O'Rourke  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



John K. Delaney  
Member of Congress



Matt Cartwright  
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Jerry McNerney  
Member of Congress



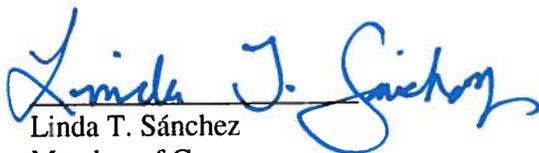
Joe Crowley  
Member of Congress



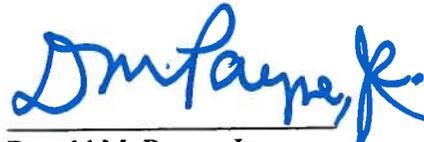
Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



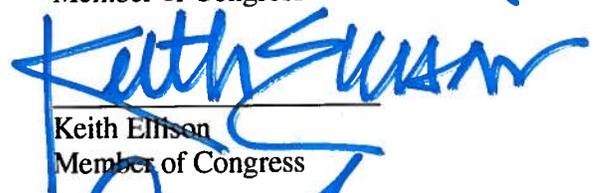
Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



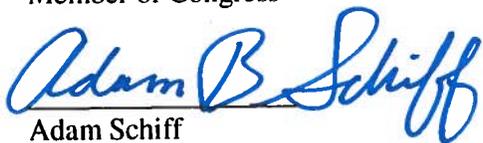
Keith Ellison  
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Chaka Fattah  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Adam Schiff  
Member of Congress



Cedric Richmond  
Member of Congress



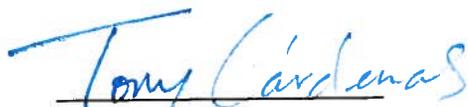
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



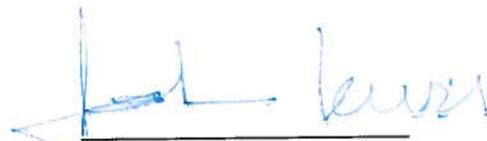
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



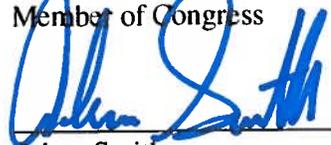
Tony Cardenas  
Member of Congress



Robert A. Brady  
Member of Congress



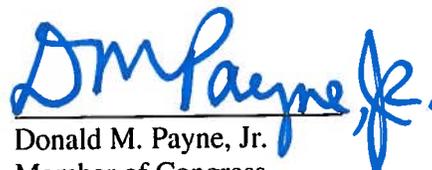
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress



Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress



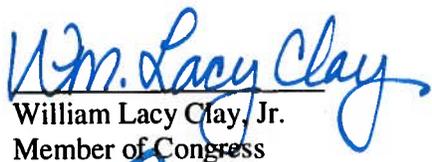
Grace Meng  
Member of Congress

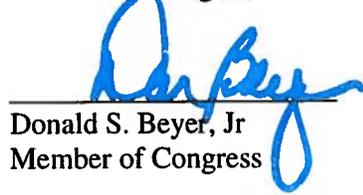


Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

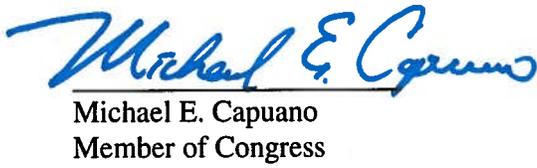


William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

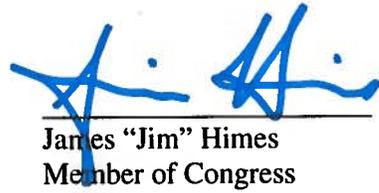
  
William Lacy Clay, Jr.  
Member of Congress

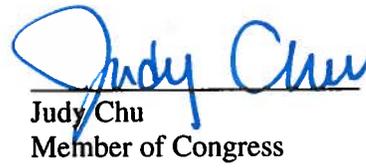
  
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.  
Member of Congress

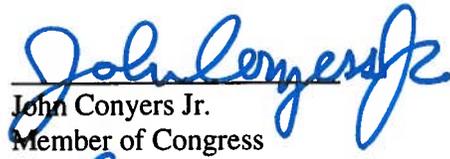
  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

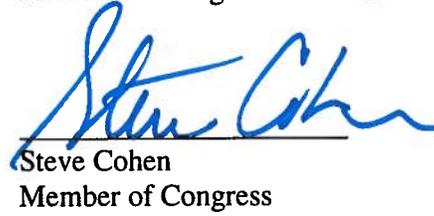
  
Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress

  
Lucille Roybal Allard  
Member of Congress

  
James "Jim" Himes  
Member of Congress

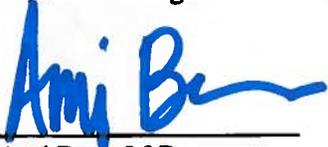
  
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Member of Congress

  
John Conyers Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Cohen  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
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