

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 19, 2014

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

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, and to fighting HIV/AIDS altogether. 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 develop the FY 2016 budget, we respectfully urge you to protect and expand funding for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) at \$5.038 billion, the U.S. contribution to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) at \$1.35 billion, the USAID HIV/AIDS program at \$350 million and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) global AIDS programs at \$132 million. This is funding that is urgently needed to fully capitalize on our prior investments and continue the fight against this terrible disease.

Globally, our support through PEPFAR and the Global Fund is dramatically reducing the burden of HIV/AIDS in developing countries. PEPFAR supported HIV counseling and testing for more than 57.7 million people in FY 2013, providing a critical entry point to prevention, treatment, and care.

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. That represented the largest amount ever committed to the Global Fund. 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 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 especially 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.

The U.S. is the first and largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. As a result of the significant investment by the U.S. in the Global Fund, of the estimated 9.7 million individuals in low- and middle-income countries who currently receive treatment, nearly 9.1 million receive support through PEPFAR bilateral programs, the Global Fund, or both.

The Global Fund is better positioned than ever to help accelerate progress on HIV/AIDS, as well as contain tuberculosis and malaria. 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. Moreover, the Global Fund's close coordination and interdependent relationship with two of its primary partners -- PEPFAR and the President's Malaria Initiative (PMI) -- further maximizes results in the field and underscores the need for robust funding for both bilateral and multilateral programs.

The U.S.'s 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. Strong support for both PEPFAR and the Global Fund will enhance U.S. leadership in the world and increase our ability to meet seminal global health goals that are within reach, including achieving an AIDS-free generation and making historic progress in combating tuberculosis and malaria.

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

We urge you to include robust funding in your FY 2016 Budget Request for these critical programs. We look forward to working with you to ensure that both PEPFAR and the Global fund continue to receive strong support in Congress.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



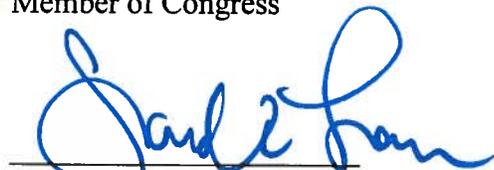
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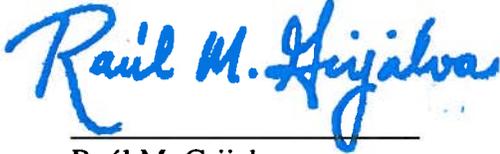
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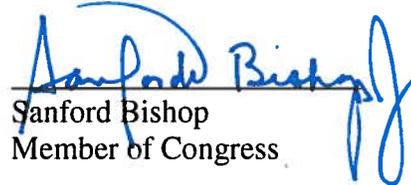
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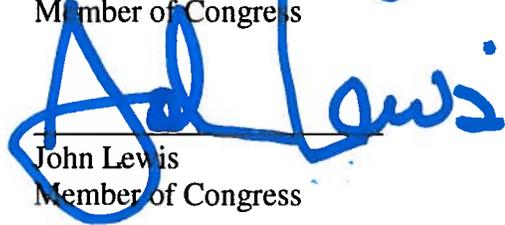
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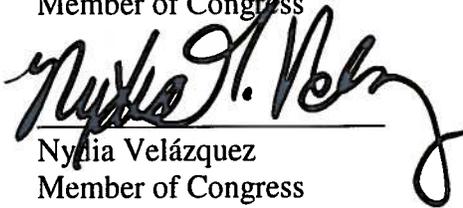
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