

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on State and Foreign
Operations
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, and Ranking Member Rogers:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2021 State, Foreign Operations, and Related (SFOPS) Programs Appropriations bill, we write to request a continuation of critical and timely support for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund). We are grateful for your past leadership in ensuring these programs continue to be robustly funded. We look to you again as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work towards the rapid acceleration of HIV prevention and treatment programs as global efforts focus on the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and other bilateral investments, along with multilateral investments in the Global Fund over time have been transformative in fighting the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic that was devastating countries, and the results are astounding. In 2019, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 15.7 million people, including nearly 700,000 children. Through PEPFAR support, over 6.3 million orphans, vulnerable children and their caregivers accessed critical care and support services and since its inception, more than 2.6 million new infections were averted in children.

By working hand in hand with countries and partners like PEPFAR, the Global Fund's efforts have saved over 32 million lives since its inception in 2002. In 2018, the Global Fund supported 18.9 million people on anti-retroviral treatment for HIV, treated 5.3 million people for TB, and distributed 131 million insecticide-treated bed nets for malaria prevention. Despite the tremendous progress made on HIV globally, every week, around 6,000 young women aged 15-24 are infected

with HIV worldwide. The Global Fund investments in programs that support adolescent girls and young women in the 13 priority countries increased 24% for the 2020-2022 allocation compared to the previous cycle with a total investment of US \$3.26 billion. Similarly, progress on the TB epidemic hinges on finding the over three million people “missed” by health systems each year. The Global Fund has focused efforts in 13 countries that account for 75 percent of missing people with TB globally to find an additional 1.5 million people by the end of 2019, and then again every year. The Global Fund helps fragile states which face flaring epidemics like HIV and TB, such as Bangladesh, where its catalytic funding supports innovative programs to detect cases of tuberculosis that would otherwise be missed by public health systems.

The co-epidemics must be battled together to bend the curve against the diseases and increased investments and efforts are necessary to end the epidemics. PEPFAR is pushing countries towards controlling their epidemics and with its new investment case for the 2020-2022 replenishment, the Global Fund aims to save 16 million more lives. The impact of the U.S. contribution to Global Fund is magnified by the fact that for each dollar of U.S. investment, \$2 of non-US funding for AIDS, TB, and malaria programming is leveraged. Consistent with PEPFAR authorizing legislation since 2004, the U.S. should continue to provide 33% of Global Fund resources.

PEPFAR alongside the Global Fund are leading global efforts to not only improve HIV care, but also 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’ relationship 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.

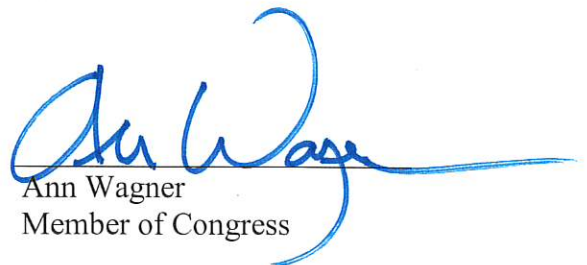
These successes are only possible because of longstanding bi-partisan support for the programs. Congress’s recent extension of the PEPFAR program and the U.S. participation in the Global Fund reinforces a renewed commitment to ending AIDS as a global health threat. We once again look to your leadership in the fight against this deadly disease.

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

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

PEPFAR and The Global Fund, FY 2021

List of Signatories

March 13, 2020

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