

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 27, 2018

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

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

Dear Chairman Graham and Ranking Member Leahy:

We are writing to request you continue critical 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 (Global Fund) consistent with fiscal year 2018 funding levels. We greatly appreciate your past leadership in ensuring these programs are robustly funded. We look to you again as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work toward rapid acceleration of HIV prevention and treatment programs as global efforts focus on the goal of ending the AIDS epidemic by 2030.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the PEPFAR program created under President George W. Bush and continued through both Republican and Democratic administrations. U.S. leadership through PEPFAR and other bilateral investments, along with multilateral investments in the Global Fund, have been transformative in fighting the deadly HIV/AIDS epidemic that was devastating countries, and the results are incredible. In 2017, PEPFAR supported life-saving antiretroviral treatment for 13.3 million people, including 1 million children. Through PEPFAR support, more than 250,000 health workers received critical training to deliver HIV treatment and other medical services.

Additionally, the Global Fund plays a critical role in combatting HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. As of the end of 2016, programs financed by the Global Fund resulted in 11 million people receiving antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS; 17.4 million people receiving treatment for tuberculosis; and the distribution of 795 million insecticide treated nets for the prevention of malaria. For every \$1 invested by the United States, \$2 has been committed by other governments around the world, and additional resources are contributed by private sector partners - a strong return on investment that ensures that the response to fighting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria is shared by the international community.

These investments and efforts not only improve HIV care, they 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' relationships 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.

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 also positions the United States to lead a global prevention revolution that will save both money and lives. We ask that you consider including FY2019 report language that demonstrates our continued commitment to this effort. The language should highlight that developing a vaccine is essential to the fight against malaria and HIV, and it would encourage USAID to continue funding to support their advancement.

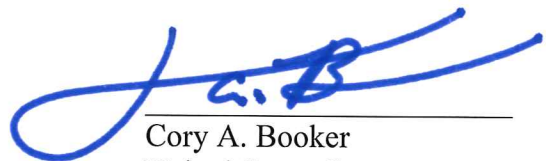
We are on track to achieving an AIDS-free generation, but without continued financial support from the U.S. government, our gains could quickly recede. We once again look to your leadership in the fight against this deadly disease.

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

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



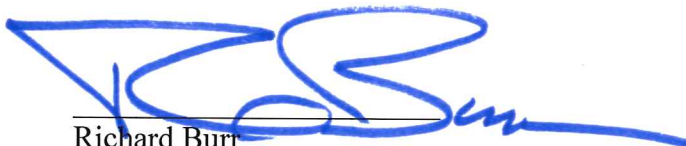
Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Todd Young
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



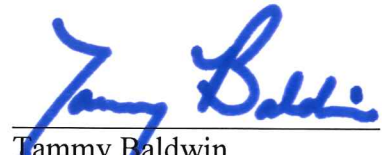
Richard Burr
United States Senator



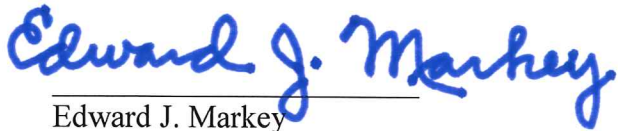
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



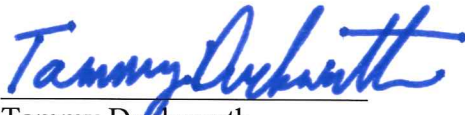
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



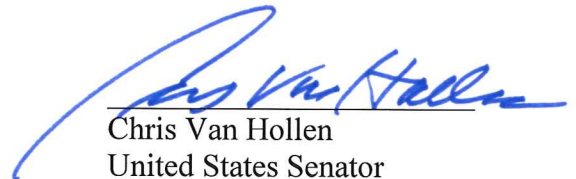
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



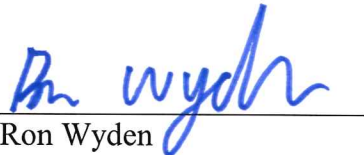
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



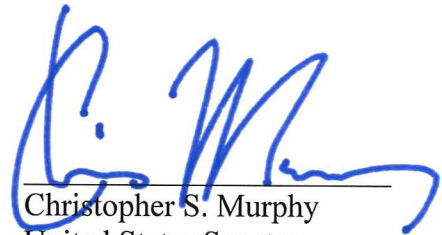
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



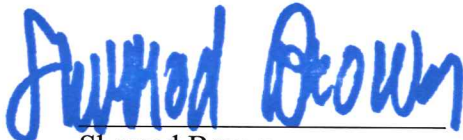
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



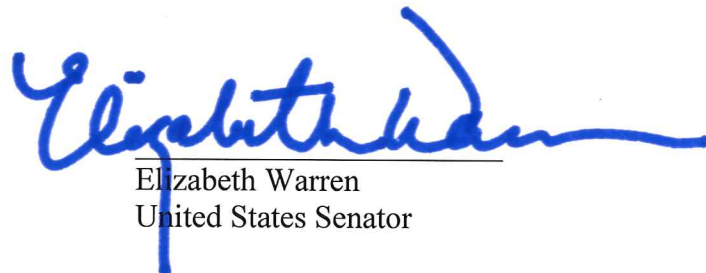
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



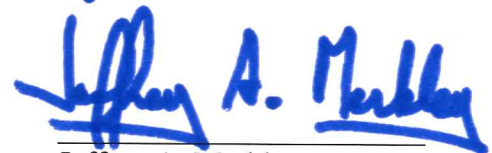
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



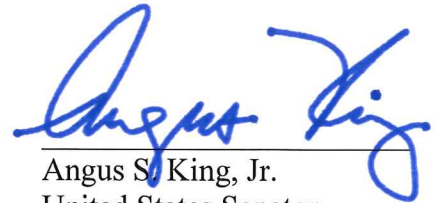
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



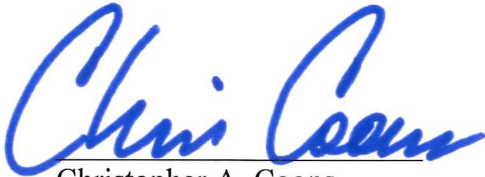
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



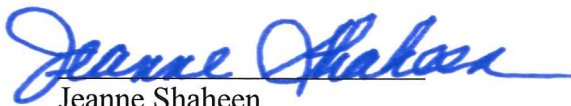
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



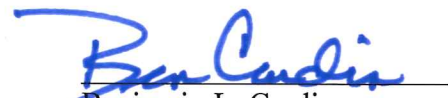
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



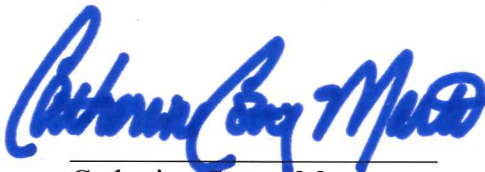
Bill Nelson
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



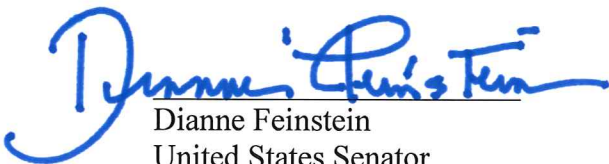
Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



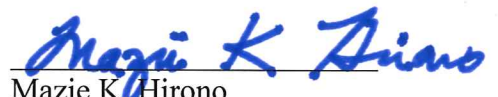
Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Mazie Hirono
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator