



FRIENDS
OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT
AGAINST AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSES FY2009 SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL: INCLUDES \$100 MILLION FOR THE GLOBAL FUND

Friends of the Global Fight applauds today's decision by the House Committee on Appropriations to include a contribution of \$100 million for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria as part of the FY2009 Supplemental Appropriations bill. If passed by the Senate and approved by the President, this bill adds \$100 million to the \$900 million already appropriated for the Global Fund in the Omnibus Appropriations bill for fiscal year 2009.

"On behalf of Friends of the Global Fight, the Global Fund, and the many people whose lives will be positively impacted with this additional funding, I would like to thank the Committee, in particular Chairman David Obey (D-WI), Congresswomen Nita Lowey (D-NY) and Barbara Lee (D-CA), as well as Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)," said Friends of the Global Fight Executive Director Natasha Bilimoria. "These Members of Congress have been long-time champions of the Global Fund, and they've shown consistent, remarkable support for global health issues. This additional \$100 million for the Global Fund will make a life-saving difference to hundreds of thousands of people around the world."

Created in 2002, the Global Fund is a critical tool in the fight against three devastating diseases: AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Together, these diseases kill six million people a year. With grants worth \$15 billion in 140 countries around the world, the Global Fund invests in programs that work to prevent the spread of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria and treat patients with these often-deadly diseases.

"This year, for the first time, the Global Fund has been unable to fund all of the high-quality proposals that its Board of Directors has approved for funding," Bilimoria said. "That means more people in the world who won't be getting life-saving medicines, and more people who won't have access to HIV, tuberculosis and malaria prevention tools. Thanks to the leadership shown today, this \$100 million would go toward funding the remaining grants, helping, for example, to fight multi-drug resistant tuberculosis in China and Lesotho and combating malaria in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

FRIENDS OF THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST AIDS, TUBERCULOSIS AND MALARIA

Friends of the Global Fight works to educate, engage and mobilize American decision makers to support the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the fight to end the worldwide burden of these three diseases. For more information about Friends of the Global Fight, visit www.TheGlobalFight.org.

###