March 16, 2018

Chairman Hal Rogers
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Room HT-2, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Nita Lowey
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Lowey:

As you consider the Fiscal Year 2019 State, Foreign Operations, and Related 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). Your past leadership has been instrumental in guaranteeing that these programs are robustly funded. We look to you again this year as PEPFAR and the Global Fund work in collaboration towards accelerating the end of these diseases.

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the PEPFAR program, a milestone deserving of celebration and renewed bipartisan commitment. U.S. leadership, through PEPFAR, bilateral partnerships, and with multilateral investments in the Global Fund, has been transformative in fighting the HIV/AIDS epidemic. PEPFAR has supported life-saving antiretroviral treatments for more than 13.3 million men, women and children—a more than fivefold increase since the beginning of 2009. Since the program’s inception, nearly 2 million HIV-free babies have been born to HIV-infected mothers through PEPFAR-supported initiatives. These investments and efforts have also enabled countries to better the overall health of their citizens. For example, during the Ebola outbreak in West Africa countries supported by PEPFAR were better prepared to respond to the deadly disease.

The Global Fund has also continued to scale-up its HIV/AIDS programs. As of mid-2016, initiatives financed by the Global Fund have supported treatment for 11 million people living with HIV/AIDS. The Global Fund is better positioned than ever to help accelerate progress on HIV/AIDS, as well as contain tuberculosis and malaria. Historically, 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. Such a return on investment guarantees that we present a truly international front in the fight against these diseases of poverty and that the burden of responding to these diseases is not shouldered by American taxpayers alone.
Continued U.S. leadership in and support for strategic partnerships with developing countries to control tuberculosis is essential. Tuberculosis has now become the most deadly infectious disease globally and is responsible for infecting over 10 million people a year. These efforts serve to promote global health and development goals that empower countries to build their own programs to support the societal needs of their people and build more stable communities, while also enhancing economic and diplomatic partnerships with the United States.

The research and development work on an AIDS vaccine continues to yield important scientific breakthroughs. The work being done in the United States has positioned our nation as the global leader in this field and moved us closer to a long awaited cure. We ask that you continue our national commitment to these efforts in Fiscal Year 2019 and beyond.

Thank you for your consideration of our request and for your ongoing leadership in fighting global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria around the world. We are on track to achieve an AIDS-free generation and we count on your support to build on our success.

Sincerely,

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Niki Tsongas
Member of Congress

Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

Al Lawson
Member of Congress
Michael Capuano  
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress

Keith Ellison  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho  
Sablan  
Member of Congress

Lois Frankel  
Member of Congress

Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress

A. Donald McEachin  
Member of Congress

Al Green  
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David N. Cicilline  
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Colleen Hanabusa  
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth  
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Mark Takano  
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Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress
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Member of Congress

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

John Lewis  
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Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Member of Congress

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Mike Bost  
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Juan Vargas  
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Filemon Vela  
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Robert A. Brady  
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Albio Sires  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Doris Matsui  
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Mike Thompson  
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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

Eliot L. Engel  
Member of Congress

Denny Heck  
Member of Congress

Carol Shea-Porter  
Member of Congress

Charlie Crist  
Member of Congress

Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Bradley S. Schneider  
Member of Congress

Dwight Evans  
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Elizabeth H. Esty  
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Scott H. Peters  
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John Sarbanes  
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Norma J. Torres  
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Brendan F. Boyle  
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Dina Titus  
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C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger  
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Pete Sessions  
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Susan A. Davis  
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Ben Ray Lujan  
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Cedric L. Richmond  
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Eric Swalwell  
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Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Member of Congress

Joseph Crowley  
Member of Congress

Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

Jackie Speier  
Member of Congress

Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress

Bill Foster  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Sander M. Levin  
Member of Congress
Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress

Alma Adams
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Lloyd Doggett
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Louise M. Slaughter
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David E. Price
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Jared Polis
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Nanette Diaz Barragan
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Rob Woodall
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Bill Pascrell, Jr.
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Rick Larsen
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William R. Keating
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Raúl Ruiz
Member of Congress

Grace Napolitano
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Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Tulsi Gabbard
Member of Congress

Karen Bass
Member of Congress