

March 13, 2019

Chairwoman Nita Lowey 2365 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger 1026 Longworth HOB Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Harold Rogers 2406 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515 Senator Richard Shelby 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy 437 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham 290 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Lowey, Ranking Member Granger, Ranking Member Rogers, Senator Shelby, Senator Leahy, and Senator Graham:

As American leaders of faith, we write you as stewards of the House and Senate Appropriations Committees and Subcommittees on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) with thanks. We deeply appreciate your leadership in maintaining critical resources for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in the Fiscal Year 2019 (FY19) enacted legislation. We write about the imperative to step up the fight for most vulnerable in FY20.

U.S. support for the Global Fund ensures that the enormous impact of that special partnership of governments, faith-based and other civil society organizations, and business will continue to grow. By a conservative estimate, the Global Fund has contributed to saving over 27 million precious lives of our sisters and brothers in countries where it supports local projects—cutting AIDS-related deaths in half since a peak 2005 and cutting TB deaths 37% and malaria deaths 60% since 2000. All those saved are now able to flourish in dignity.

This year is begins a three-year replenishment of the Global Fund for 2020-2022 whereby we know that stepping up the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria will offer the opportunity address a tipping point of whether the world does what it takes to end the epidemics.

If we pull back now, we will lose ground at a moment when several challenges to the marked progress to date are looming: Malaria cases are on the rise for the first time in 10 years, risking disease resurgence in places where funding is prematurely cut. Antibiotic-resistant forms of TB and the other epidemics are rising dangers. Young women are eight times more vulnerable HIV positive than young men in some African countries. And with a "youth bulge" of 40 percent of Africa's population is under the age of 15, flat investment will not keep pace on progress saving the lives of those most vulnerable to HIV and malaria.

For this reason, we are asking for a modest but crucial increase for this cycle at \$1.56 billion for FY20 – which if sustained would allow the Global Fund to meet its minimum 3 year goal to stay on track to end the epidemics. That is the case because U.S. leadership spurs other donors to the Global Fund, whereby for every \$1 we spend, we require \$2 match from other donor countries.

This important move on the Global Fund and other important global health priorities would be a powerful sign of American commitment to finish the job in the fight to vanquish the HIV, TB, and malaria epidemics for good, which we strongly appreciate, support, and recognize.

Sincerely,

Senator Bill Frist, MD

Wellow H. Frist, M.D.

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Natalie Grant	Artist	Brentwood, TN
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Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist and Mother	Franklin, TN
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Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay; Founder, Blood:Water	Nashville, TN
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Jennifer Parks	Lay Leader, Christ's Greenfield Lutheran	Gilbert, AZ
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Charlie Peacock	Music Producer and Artist-in-Residence,	Nashville, TN
	Lipscomb University	,
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Dr. Gus Reyes	Director of Hispanic Education Initiative/	Austin, TX
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	Convention of Texas and COO, NHCLC	
Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Raleigh, NC
Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian	Sacramento, CA
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Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	
Josh Rouse	Global Outreach Pastor, Northeast	Louisville, KY
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Francis Rushton, MD	Mission Justice & Service Member, First	Birmingham, AL
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Rev. Edwin Sanders II	Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational	Nashville, TN
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Anita Smith	President, Children's AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC
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Shepherd Smith	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC
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Debbie Taylor	Artist and Mother	Nashville, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN
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Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP	Executive Director, Family Health Ministries	Durham, NC
Barrett Ward	Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE	Brentwood, TN

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Mark Yeadon	Sr. VP of Global Programs, Compassion	Colorado Springs, CO
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