



THE FAITH-BASED COALITION FOR
THE GLOBAL FUND
to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-220, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
H-204, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Senator Schumer and Congressman McCarthy:

As American leaders of faith concerned about the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our communities home and abroad, we call on U.S. leadership to address the pandemic's impacts and protect against a future resurgence. As Congress considers the next legislative package to respond to COVID-19, we urge you to provide robust funding for the international response to the pandemic, including additional resources to protect fragile gains in responding to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

We care deeply about the health of vulnerable populations worldwide, and we know that American leadership is needed now more than ever as we face an unprecedented global challenge of the novel coronavirus devastating lives around the world. While we are yet to see the full impact of this pandemic, one thing we know is that COVID-19 has, and will continue to have, immense effects on health and wellbeing here and abroad.

The people most impacted are disproportionately those already vulnerable to infectious diseases. COVID-19 risks undermining decades of progress against epidemics that kill millions of people every year: AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Researchers at the [Imperial College London estimate](#) that in heavily affected countries, COVID-19 could result in a 10% increase in death from HIV, 20 percent in TB and 36 percent in malaria.

We know the life-saving impact of U.S. investments in global health. We all value and work with the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, which has helped save more than 32 million lives from the three deadliest infectious diseases since 2002 while strengthening health systems to cope with new pandemics. The Global Fund has created a new COVID-19 Response Mechanism to quickly direct funding to help countries address COVID-19 and mitigate damage to their AIDS, TB and malaria programs. This accountable partnership is a central asset in larger emergency international funding.

It is right that Congress is focused on saving American lives and livelihoods from COVID-19 and your leadership will be essential to addressing the growing need. We are aware that our congregations and followers will never be truly safe from COVID-19 until the threat is confronted globally. Specifically, we ask for robust funding for the international assistance to prevent, respond and mitigate the impacts from this devastating pandemic to be included in the next supplemental appropriation to respond to COVID-19, including in this a U.S. contribution to the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism.

The vital sustained support for the Global Fund and other important global health priorities is 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. Millions threatened by these diseases could then be freed from fear and to share their God-given gifts with humankind.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



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