

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 24, 2007

# Help Fight Global HIV/AIDS Tuberculosis and Malaria

**Support \$7.69 billion in Funding for FY08**

**DEADLINE TO SIGN ON: FRIDAY, JANUARY 26th**

Dear Colleague:

Last year over 6 million people throughout the world died as a result of contracting HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, or malaria, or a combination of these diseases. Widespread poverty in the developing world; lack of access to basic health care, simple drug treatments, and prevention tools; gender inequality; and ongoing ignorance, stigma, and discrimination have all been identified as factors contributing to the spread of these diseases, and all of them combined have furthered social and political instability in many developing countries.

The United States has been a consistent leader in the fight against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria and has sought to address these underlying factors through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and other organizations and initiatives. Unfortunately in recent months the global community has been faced with the sobering news that despite greatly expanded efforts to address HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, all three pandemics are continuing to grow rapidly.

I urge you to join me in sending the attached letter to the President requesting \$7.69 billion for our FY08 global AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs. Such funding would include \$5.1 billion for HIV/AIDS, \$750 million for tuberculosis, \$440 million for malaria, and at least \$1.4 billion of the total for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

If you need further information or would like to sign on, please contact Christos Tsentas of my staff at 5-2661.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee, M.C.



Tom Lantos, M.C.



Donald M. Payne, M.C.

January XX, 2007

President George W. Bush  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Members of Congress, who are deeply concerned about the spread of the global HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria pandemics in the developing world and their impact on United States foreign policy, we are writing to strongly urge you to increase the fiscal year 2008 (FY08) budget request for these programs to \$7.69 billion. Such funding should include \$5.1 billion for global AIDS, \$750 million for tuberculosis and \$440 million for malaria. Of this total amount, we urge you to direct at least \$1.4 billion through the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

In recent months, the global community has been faced with the sobering news that despite greatly expanded efforts to address HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria, all three diseases continue to grow and continue to kill in staggering numbers—with over 6 million deaths attributed to these three diseases last year alone. Need-based estimates indicate that nearly \$30 billion is required in 2008 to provide prevention, care and treatment for these global pandemics. The United States has consistently been a leader in addressing these three diseases, but the scale of these pandemics requires that we do even more.

With the expansion of the global effort on AIDS, TB, and Malaria, clear gaps have emerged. For instance, many programs in developing countries are experiencing significant shortages of health care workers to implement programs. At the same time, recent outbreaks of extremely drug resistant tuberculosis are endangering the gains we have made in combating HIV/AIDS. We urge you to work with us in developing new initiatives to train and retain healthcare workers in developing countries, prevent the rapid spread of extremely drug resistant tuberculosis, and improve the effectiveness of our global health programs.

In another area, it has become clear that efforts to address the needs of orphan and vulnerable children are falling short. Thanks to strong bipartisan and bicameral support, in 2005 we passed *The Assistance for Orphans and Vulnerable Children in Developing Countries Act of 2005* (P.L. 109-95). This legislation provides an opportunity to significantly expand efforts to support these kids and it deserves to be fully funded.

The upcoming selection of a new Executive Director for the Global Fund also represents an opportunity for the United States to renew our commitment to this important international organization. To date the Global Fund has committed \$6.9 billion in grants across 136 countries to fight these three diseases. Because the Global Fund anticipates it will need \$4.2 billion to meet its resource needs in the coming year, the United States must step up to provide our fair share of funding of \$1.4 billion in FY08.

The importance of funding technical assistance programs provided by the United Nations Joint Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), and the World Health Organization (WHO) also cannot be overstated. These important organizations facilitate the work of our bilateral Global AIDS programs, as well as the Global Fund, the World Bank, and other donor nations. We ask that as part of the overall budget you provide \$50 million for UNAIDS and \$90 million for the WHO.

Again, we strongly believe that \$7.69 billion in FY08 will make a very significant difference in the fight against AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Additionally, designating \$1.4 billion for the Global Fund, will guarantee that this vital and important organization can meet its obligations to renew its existing grant agreements, spur donations from other nations, and set the stage for the organization to provide a robust 7<sup>th</sup> round of new grant agreements that will be funded through FY08.

On behalf of communities affected by AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, we thank you for your consideration of our request, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,