



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

February 21, 2023

Dear Governor Bill Lee and Dr. Ralph Alvarado:

As supporters and members of the *Faith-Based Coalition for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria*, we have supported and helped millions of people around the world to survive and thrive with dignity as they struggle to combat HIV/AIDS. Many of us have been on the frontlines of advocacy here in Tennessee for the past twenty years. It would be remiss of us as faith and community leaders in Tennessee to turn a blind eye to those in our community who also are in need of prevention, care, and treatment to combat HIV/AIDS in their lives.

We understand that the state of Tennessee has reported that it will decline \$9 million from federal funding in May 2023. Because we are members of a group who annually offer our support for international communities to receive federal funding, we also want to lift our voices for those individuals in the state of Tennessee, in our own hometowns, to also receive this funding. We know as supporters of this funding for the Global Fund and its partners, more than 50 million people's lives have been saved in the last twenty years.

Our faith calls us to love, not to judge (Matthew 22:35-40; Matthew 7:1). We are called not to "love with words or speech, but in action and in truth" (1 John 3:18). Here we urge you with our call to action to *rethink, reconsider, and rescind* the current plans to reject funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for testing, prevention, and treatment of HIV in the state of Tennessee.

Decreasing funding for vulnerable populations will reverse the course of hard-earned progress we have made in the past few decades. The risk for greater infections among vulnerable communities puts a greater risk on the whole population to spread the virus. Not only is this a poor economic and medical decision for our state, it is also a poor moral one. This choice benefits no one.

As advocates for the marginalized in our community, we request that you reinstate the federal funding to continue the incredible progress we have made toward ending the HIV pandemic in Tennessee, the nation, and around the world.

Sincerely,

Jennifer E. Dyer  
Founder  
The 2030 Collaborative

Kenny Alphin	Artist, Big & Rich	Nashville, TN
Christiev Alphin	Creative Director & Stylist, Everything Visual	Nashville, TN
Andi Ashworth	Author	Nashville, TN
Fr. Danny Bryant	Priest, St. Mary of Bethany Parish	Nashville, TN
Victoria Case	Founder, Untitled_ Financial	Nashville, TN
Carol T. Cavin-Dillon	Senior Pastor, West End United Methodist Church	Nashville, TN
Jennifer Cooke	Manager, Amy Grant	Nashville, TN
Ian Morgan Cron	Author and Episcopal Priest	Franklin, TN
David Dark, PhD	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
The Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake	Senior Pastor, Westminster Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Andrew Greer	Singer/Songwriter	Nashville, TN
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay; Founder, Blood:Water	Nashville, TN
Doug Heimburger, MD	Professor of Medicine, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health	Nashville, TN
Rev. Judi Hoffman	St. John's United Methodist Church	Memphis, TN
Drew and Ellie Holcomb	Artists, Church of the Redeemer	Nashville, TN
Dr. Todd L. Lake	V.P. for Faith-Based Engagement & Church Relations, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Nashville, TN
Sarah Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN
Suzanne Mayernick	Founder, Love One International	Brentwood, TN
Steve Moore	Chairman of the Board, The Shalom Foundation	Brentwood, TN
Ken Morris	Director, Lifeway Mission International U.S.	Franklin, TN
Jennifer Nettles	Artist, Sugarland	Nashville, TN
Sam O. Okpaku, MD, PhD	President & Founder, Center for Health, Culture and Society	Nashville, TN
Charlie Peacock	Music Producer and Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University	Nashville, TN
Andy Peterson	Founder & Creative Director , Docsology Films and Justice Film Festival	Nashville, TN
Ash Rogers	Co-CEO, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
Caylen Santos	Executive Director, The Shalom Foundation	Nashville, TN
Brian Seay	Director of Digital Events + Partnerships, Compassion International	Nashville, TN
Jake Smith	Executive Director, Blood:Water	Nashville, TN
Rev. Becca Stevens	St. Augustine's Chapel; Founder, Magdalene/Thistle Farms	Nashville, TN
Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN	Dean and Professor, Gordon E. Inman College of Health Sciences & Nursing, Belmont University	Nashville, TN

Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN
Dr. David Vanderpool	CEO, LiveBeyond	Nashville, TN
Barrett Ward	CEO, ABLE	Nashville, TN
Kimberly Williams Paisley	Actor & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Russ Williams	Director of Touring and Events, A3 Merchandise	Nashville, TN
Stephanie Waldrop Williams	Senior Director of Fundraising Enablement, Compassion International	Nashville, TN
Morgan Wills, MD, MATS	President and CEO, Siloam Health	Nashville, TN
Wes Yoder	President, Ambassador Literary Agency	Nashville, TN