

March 1, 2021

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro 2413 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger 1026 Longworth HOB Washington DC 20515

Chairwoman Barbara Lee 2470 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515

Ranking Member Harold Rogers 2406 Rayburn HOB Washington DC 20515 Senator Patrick Leahy 437 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Richard Shelby 304 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Senator Chris Coons 218 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro, Ranking Member Granger, Chairwoman Lee, Ranking Member Rogers, Senator Leahy, Senator Shelby, Senator Coons, and Senator Graham:

As American leaders of faith, we write to 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 sustaining investment in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) in the Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) enacted legislation. We write about the critical need to maintain this support for the most vulnerable in FY22 and the need to support emergency investment in the global COVID-19 response—utilizing the Global Fund which has your and our trust.

We are asking Congress to maintain the crucial \$1.56 billion for FY22 for the Global Fund-to follow through with its commitment since 2019 to the Global Fund's three-year goals to confront and ultimately conquer the epidemics. U.S. leadership propelled other nations' three-year pledges--thanks to you. It spurred other donors because for every \$1 in regular annual appropriations, the U.S. requires by law a \$2 match from other donor countries.

In addition to FY22 appropriations, we urge you to provide robust funding in the next emergency supplemental bill for the international response to the COVID-19 pandemic, notably additional resources to protect fragile gains in responding to AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria which COVID-19 is disrupting.

Specifically, as part of broader supplemental appropriations to address the pandemic in the developing world, we ask for a U.S. emergency contribution of \$4 billion for the Global Fund's COVID-19 Response Mechanism to prevent, respond to, and mitigate the impacts of this devastating pandemic.

We are deeply concerned about the devastating impact of COVID-19 on our communities at home and abroad. Those most impacted are already disproportionately vulnerable to infectious diseases. COVID-19 risks undermining decades of progress against epidemics that kill millions of people every year: AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. The Global Fund's most <u>recent impact survey</u>, found that 66% of the HIV services faced moderate to severe disruptions due to COVID-19, with TB and malaria programs facing 67% and 45% moderate to severe disruptions as well.

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 businesses will continue to grow. By a conservative estimate, the Global Fund and its partners have contributed to saving more than 38 million lives in countries where it supports local projects. All those saved are graced to thrive with dignity.

We call on U.S. leadership to address the pandemic's impacts and protect against emerging and future variants due to mutation that could prolong and worsen the pandemic. 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 communities and congregations will never be truly safe from COVID-19 until the threat is confronted globally, because pandemics and their variants spread internationally.

The sustained U.S. support for the Global Fund and other important global health priorities is a powerful sign of U.S. leadership to finish the job in the fight to vanquish the HIV, TB, and malaria epidemics— rallying other countries to step up with us. And to meet that end, confronting COVID-19's devastating impact on communities and fragile health systems in Africa and elsewhere with immediate supplemental funding is urgent. Millions threatened by these diseases living on the margins of poverty, scorn, and neglect could be freed from fear and apply their God-given gifts to our common prosperity. Please continue to champion these essential good works.

Sincerely,

Wellow H. Frist, M.D.

Senator Bill Frist, MD Chairman, Advisory Board, 2030 Collaborative

David R. Adams

Travis Adams

Tim Ahlman Matt Alexander Kenny Alphin Rev. Dr. Guy Ames Vice President for Missions, Cross Catholic Outreach Associate Pastor for Students & Missions, Third Baptist Church Pastor, Christ's Greenfield Lutheran Church Co-Founder, OneWorld Health Artist, Big & Rich Associate Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church

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Jason Cullum Dr. Larry Cuthill Rev. John Daniels David Dark, PhD

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| Charlie Lowell | Artist, Jars of Clay | Franklin, TN |
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| Jo Anne Lyon, Ambassador | General Superintendent Emerita, The Wesleyar Church | Indianapolis, IN |
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| Rev. Edwin Sanders II | Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church | Nashville, TN |
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| Antwan Steele | Chief of Staff, Nona Jones Ministries | Gainesville, FL |
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| Rev. Adam Taylor | Executive Director, Sojourners | Washington, DC |
| , Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN | Dean & Professor, Gordon E. Inman College | Nashville, TN |
| | Of Health Sciences & Nursing, Belmont Universi | |
| Debbie Taylor | Artist and Mother | , Nashville, TN |
| Sarah Taylor | Global Health Advocate | Nashville, TN |
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| Steve Taylor | Recording Artist & Filmmaker | Nashville, TN |
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| Brad Ulgenes | Pastor, St. John's Lutheran Church | Helena, MT |
| Louis Upkins | Author, Speaker, Entrepreneur | Franklin, TN |
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| Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP | Executive Director, Family Health Ministries | Durham, NC |
| Barrett Ward | Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE | Nashville, TN |
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