

Ambassador Deborah Birx

Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and Health Diplomacy

1800 G Street, N.W., Suite 10300

Washington, DC 20006

Dear Ambassador Birx:

On behalf of the Global AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP), we would like to extend our sincere appreciation for your leadership for the past 7 years as Global AIDS Coordinator. We recognize your commitment both personally and professionally to the PEPFAR program that you dedicated thousands of hours to and maximized efficiency despite operating with a flat budget for your entire tenure.

We are grateful for your diplomacy and tenacity in laying out clearly each year within the Country Operational Plan (COPs) Guidance issue that creates a supportive HIV policy environment allowing for meaningful engagement of civil society, local partners and implementing partners. Although some of these issues proved to be controversial at times (e.g. key populations and user fees), even in the face of criticism from countries, you rose to the challenge and stood behind the client-centered prevention and treatment programming. Thanks to your leadership, countries are relying on and fully scaling up evidence based programming (e.g. TPT for TB).

Your undying commitment to data-driven programming and geographic and epidemiologic focus shifted resources to populations that lacked a voice and were in dire need of attention (e.g. adolescent girls and key populations). The data around DREAMS has proven to be unparalleled and will certainly be a legacy in which you can be very proud. Continual use of quarterly, monthly, and weekly data to improve implementing partner performance and increase impact has increased effectiveness, efficiency, and performance amongst all partners and will continue to maximize efficiencies well into the future.

Again, we are grateful for your leadership and we will be forever in debt for all that you gave both personally and professionally to the Office of Global AIDS Coordinator. On behalf of the GAPP, we wish you the best in your future endeavors and we hope that our paths cross again.

Sincerely,