

Elizabeth Cameron, Ph.D
Center for Presidential Transition
Partnership for Public Service
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Dear Dr. Cameron:

As co-chairs of the Global AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP), we write to offer our warm congratulations on your selection to lead the National Security Council directorate for global health security and biodefense. The GAPP is a coalition of over 70 advocacy, research and implementing organizations committed to ending AIDS for the next generation by expanding and improving global HIV/AIDS and TB programming.

We applaud President-elect Joe Biden's statement that day committing to expand support for bipartisan programs like the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (Global Fund). We understand though that President-elect's COVID-19 plan to be released later this week unfortunately does not include funding for either PEPFAR or the Global Fund. Both these programs are essential to our COVID-19 response both here and abroad. Without supplemental funding they will be crippled in their ability to continue to support the global COVID-19 effort in the countries in which they work, and will face erosion of hard-fought past gains against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

PEPFAR and the Global Fund retain strong bipartisan support in both chambers, which has allowed them to reach millions of men, women and children across the past three Administrations. The colliding pandemics threatens to undue their legacy, and set the programs back years. They need additional supplemental support now because.

- Rapid global spread of new COVID-19 viral variants identified in South Africa, the UK, and Japan - and the expectation of continued viral mutation – clearly demonstrate the United States will not be safe from COVID-19 unless we help other countries control their own COVID-19 epidemics.
- Weak and shaken health systems need support right now as LMICs wait months or years for vaccines to be widely available – and these health systems investments will *help countries prepare for effective COVID-19 vaccine delivery*.
- PEPFAR has been adapting to and addressing COVID-19 for the past year supporting health systems in countries with only very limited additional funding. The Global Fund is the lead multilateral agency working to procure and distribute COVID-19 tests, therapeutics, and PPE to protect health workers, and mitigate damage to AIDS, TB and

malaria programs. Its already helped over 100 countries with COVID-19, but has now run out of funds.

COVID-19 pandemic has vividly highlighted the critical importance of the continuing role of US global health diplomacy. Our consistent, long term investments in the PEPFAR program have not just impacted HIV/AIDS outcomes, but have also bolstered health systems across the African continent, advanced pandemic preparedness and improved global health security. PEPFAR has created and strengthened laboratory networks, global supply chains and helped improve frontline health workers' capacity, allowing PEPFAR countries to respond quickly to emerging health threats, such as Ebola and COVID-19. The PEPFAR platform provides a model for broader global health investments and a foundation for the work that still needs to be done.

Without additional investment, PEPFAR faces significant challenges in delivering services. HIV testing under the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is down nearly 40% over 2019, and in some countries 25% fewer HIV positive pregnant women are accessing services to prevent transmission to their babies. We've also seen a worrying 25% decline of HIV treatment initiation across many age groups. More than 70% of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria sites report moderate to severe disruptions due to COVID-19. The impact has been particularly acute for women and children as well as other vulnerable and marginalized populations. The situation is frankly dire.

Additional funding for PEPFAR and the Global Fund will help countries adapt HIV, TB and malaria programming to protect our investments and meet the needs of those with and at risk for HIV while keeping clients and health care workers safe from COVID-19. Additionally, funding will go towards building on and sustaining existing platforms like laboratory capacity and supply chains to assist countries in their COVID-19 response.

Again, we congratulate you and we look forward to working with you on issues of global health and diplomacy moving forward. Should questions arise about the memo or this letter, or if you need additional information, or if you or your staff would like to speak with members of the GAPP to discuss these issues, please contact Katie Lapidés Coester (kcoester@pedaids.org), Helen Cornman (hcornman@planetaid.org) or Kevin Fisher (kevin@avac.org).

Sincerely

Helen Cornman
Katie Lapidés-Coester
Kevin Fisher
GAPP Co-Chairs

cc Rebecca Katz
Jirair Ratevosian