

August 16, 2019

Senator Mitt Romney  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Romney:

On behalf of the AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP), we write today to express our deep concern over reports that the Office of Management and Budget is planning to send a rescission package on or before Tuesday, August 20 that solely targets the International Affairs Budget. The GAPP is a coalition of advocacy, research and implementing organizations committed to ending AIDS for the next generation by expanding and improving global HIV/AIDS programming. The International Affairs Budget is an incredibly effective and cost effective diplomatic tool strengthening us as a nation. U.S. support for global health programs through the International Affairs Budget — including initiatives for nutrition, safe water, sanitation, and hygiene — has led to stronger, healthier communities around the world. These investments strengthen the health systems of other countries, and benefit the U.S. economy by strengthening the economies of our trading partners.

The International Affairs budget supports PEPFAR and the Global Fund which remain unmitigated success stories – not only saving millions of lives but also preventing millions of new HIV infections. As of September 30, 2018, PEPFAR was supporting 14.6 million people on antiretroviral treatment. To date, programs financed by the Global Fund have saved more than 27 million lives. The impact of the U.S. contribution to Global Fund is magnified because by law the U.S. cannot provide more than 33% of Global Fund resources, thus leveraging funds from other donors who do not want to leave U.S. funding on the table.

We urge you to use your influence with the Office of Management and Budget and the White House to urge them to reconsider this harmful rescission package as contrary to Congress's Article 1 authority over allocation of resources. The best way to consider modifications to these programs is on a careful case by case analysis by Congress, not through an ill-considered rescission package.

Sincerely

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