

Thomas Zimmerman

White House

Presidential Personnel Office (PPO)

This letter is in support of naming Dr. Charles Holmes to serve as the next U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator who will oversee the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) Program. Strong leadership is needed to build on PEPFAR successes and use it as a base for COVID-19 and other health strengthening and pandemic preparedness programs. PEPFAR needs strong leadership and a bold commitment to equity, social and structural issues, key populations and to strengthen OGAC's capacity on the ground. PEPFAR needs successful interagency collaboration more than ever, given that relationships between agencies can be strained in country.

Dr. Holmes's deep diplomatic ties and commitment to advancing President Biden's administration goals and restoring U.S. partnerships with the Global South. PEPFAR needs someone who knows the program well and is well known among the U.S. chiefs of missions, the diplomatic corps and embassy staff and is able to act quickly and decisively. This type of leadership will be necessary to ensure the country operational plan (COP) process is managed efficiently and the PEPFAR Strategy is completed by December 2021. We believe Charles brings that expertise and experience.

Dr. Holmes's focus on localization will be necessary to strengthen OGAC's capacity on the ground and move PEPFAR beyond the narrow 70 percent goal of only transitioning to local partners towards a wider focus on ensuring local partners growth is linked to equity, agency and accomplishment. PEPFAR will also need to continue to have a strong focus on women and girls. Dr. Holmes has committed to ensuring girls and women will have access to a full range of sexual and reproductive health services (SRHR).

We must recognize the significant investments that PEPFAR has made to date in global health diplomacy and mitigating effects of COVID-19 and broader health security benefits. We believe that Dr. Charles Holmes is the leader to bring the future of PEPFAR under the Biden-Harris administration into the future.

Sincerely,

Helen Cornman, Senior USG Special Representative, Humana People to People/Planet Aid