

November 15, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Schumer, Senator McConnell, Senator Menendez, and Senator Risch:

On behalf of the organizations listed at the end of this letter, we ask that you prioritize the nomination of Dr. John Nkengasong to the position of Global AIDS Coordinator.

We urge you to schedule a confirmation hearing for Dr. Nkengasong as swiftly as possible. As hard-fought gains in the fight against HIV continue to be threatened by a concurrent global pandemic and a retreating global donor base, high-level political leadership is critical. As a new five-year strategy for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is enacted this year, a rapid confirmation of the Global AIDS Coordinator is imperative to ensure the Coordinator is able to guide the implementation of the program. PEPFAR has also been instrumental in the response to COVID-19 in Africa and Dr. Nkengasong's leadership is needed as PEPFAR's platform continues to be leveraged. Additionally, it is crucial that the U.S., as the foremost source of global support in the fight against HIV, demonstrates continued leadership in the fight against HIV and AIDS in the leadup to this year's World AIDS Day on December 1. Demonstrating that HIV is a priority for the U.S. is a determining factor in our ability to urge other donor countries to increase resources to end HIV by 2030.

Dr. Nkengasong is an eminently qualified candidate for the role of Global AIDS Coordinator. His well of experience in infectious disease mitigation and control in Africa gives him unrivaled insight into the challenges that PEPFAR faces in reaching those not receiving HIV services. His work at the onset of the HIV pandemic demonstrates his deep understanding of how to prevent

and treat HIV and his recent work to halt the spread of COVID-19 across Africa lends invaluable knowledge to guide the course of PEPFAR in the coming years as Africa contends with these concurrent pandemics.

We respectfully request that you prioritize these nomination proceedings to ensure that the lifesaving work of the PEPFAR program continues without interruption.

Thank you for your continued leadership.

Sincerely,

AVAC
HIV+Hepatitis Policy Institute
Health GAP
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Fòs Feminista
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
Fast-Track Cities Institute
Management Sciences for Health
ONE
Prevention Access Campaign (PAC) - U=U
Children's AIDS Fund International
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Global Health Council
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM)
Planet Aid
Treatment Action Group
R2H Action [Right to Health]
IPM
Council for Global Equality
Christian Connections for International Health
RESULTS
Health GAP
International Partnership for Microbicides
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Advocates for Youth
Friends of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB, and Malaria
American Jewish World Service