

April 27, 2017

The Honorable Michael Enzi  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Diane Black  
Chairman  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Yarmuth  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Budget  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Enzi, Ranking Member Sanders, Chairman Black, and Ranking Member Yarmuth:

As members of the global health community, we write to highlight the important role programs administered through the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) play in saving lives and protecting health around the world, and stress the critical need to maintain robust funding for HHS activities that support global health, global health research and development, and global health security.

Investments in HHS programs are smart and strategic for the United States. Investments in research at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), detection and prevention activities at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), biological preparedness countermeasures at the Biological Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA), and other HHS health programs advance new technologies, strategies, and partnerships that propel US leadership in medical innovation and keep Americans safe and healthy. They also play a powerful role in global health—pivoting promising research to reach populations in need around the world, collaborating to build strong and resilient health systems in partner countries, and advancing disease detection, prevention, and response activities that limit the spread of outbreaks and epidemics.

These investments have impact.

- NIH programs developed the first blood test for HIV/AIDS, advanced the first rapid diagnostic for drug resistant tuberculosis, and showed how mothers' health could lead to babies that are healthier and more likely to survive.
- The Fogarty International Center builds critical research partnerships between US scientists and their international counterparts to drive forward important biomedical advances in HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and neglected tropical diseases. The Center's work supports global health research at more than 100 US universities, and their HIV program alone has trained over 2,000 scientists from 100 countries since 1988.
- CDC immunization programs helped reduce the number of new polio cases globally by more than 99 percent between 1988 and 2010. Its Field Epidemiology Training Program has trained more than 31,000 epidemiologists in 72 countries on how to detect and rapidly respond to infectious disease outbreaks, which greatly contributed to Nigeria's ability to contain the 2014 Ebola outbreak.

- BARDA's work in infectious diseases has advanced at least three Ebola vaccine candidates, at least six diagnostics for Zika, and at least five Zika vaccine candidates in under two years. These activities have real and tangible results, and save lives around the world, including Americans.

As our world becomes more interconnected, it is clear that the health of Americans is dependent on the health of populations abroad. Evidenced by the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa and the recent spread of Zika, health crises abroad can become health crises at home. Protecting the health and well-being of Americans requires a globally-focused approach. Investments in HHS programs that support global health are therefore critical components to protecting our nation's public health.

It has never been more clear that protecting American health means supporting global health. HHS programs have long contributed to research, systems, and partnerships that save lives and promote health around the world. To continue this legacy and continue to be a leader in research and development we must maintain strong investments in globally-focused HHS programs and activities. Funding cuts will weaken health systems abroad, and slow progress in building a country's capacity to prevent, detect and respond to infectious disease outbreaks. Ultimately this will directly impact Americans' health and health security.

We recognize the challenge of balancing competing priorities with limited resources, however, protecting American health, and health around the world, must always be a paramount. We urge you to continue the United States' legacy of leadership and foresight in global health by maintaining strong investments for HHS global health and globally oriented programs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

1,000 Days  
Abt Associates  
Action on Smoking and Health ASH  
Advancing Synergy  
AIDS United  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Heart Association  
American Medical Student Association  
American Public Health Association  
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene  
American Thoracic Society  
AVAC  
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation  
Elizabeth R Griffin Research Foundation  
FHI 360  
FIND  
General Board of Church and Society  
Global Coalition Against Cervical Cancer  
Global Health Council  
Global Health Technologies Coalition

Global Health Visions  
Global Network of Black People working in HIV  
Global Oncology  
Gryphon Scientific  
Handicap International  
Housing Works, Inc.  
IMA World Health  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
InterAction  
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative  
International HIV/AIDS Alliance  
International Public Health Advisors  
IntraHealth International  
JC Flowers Foundation  
Management Sciences for Health  
Metropolitan Community Churches Global Justice Institute  
NCD Alliance  
NCD Child  
No More Epidemics  
Partners In Health  
RESULTS  
ReSurge International  
TB Photovoice  
The Hunger Project  
Treatment Action Group  
UCSF Global Health Sciences  
Union for Reform Judaism  
WaterAid  
YoungStroke, Inc.