



RELEASE DATE, 2017

Subject: Cutting AIDS treatment funding: a death sentence for the poor?

Dear Honorable Members of the U.S. Congress:

As members of faith communities across the United States, we urgently request your leadership for continued funding of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) for global HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in impoverished countries. A historic moment is now upon us; ending AIDS is within reach, thanks largely to PEPFAR and other efforts to make HIV medications available throughout the developing world.

Most regrettably, some ill people continue to face discrimination and lack of services. They lag behind in being diagnosed and linked with long-term, stable treatment. For them in particular, cuts to global funding will mean fewer or no HIV/AIDS medications, treatment, prevention education, or care. They would face certain death. And gone would be the chance to eliminate history's deadliest epidemic in our lifetime. According to UNAIDS' fast-track strategy, the U.S. administration's proposed cuts would spark a massive resurgence of HIV infections and AIDS-related deaths around the world (see UNAIDS' "Fast-Track Update on Investments Needed in the AIDS Response").

In the coming budgeting season, **we ask that you exercise your Congressional leadership by voting to maintain or expand funding for PEPFAR's global HIV/AIDS programs.**

Please stand with us and with the world's most vulnerable people.

Very truly yours,

We, the undersigned community faith leaders.

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