

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 27, 2005

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-218, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Obey
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Lewis and Ranking Member Obey:

We are writing to thank you for your previous efforts to increase funding for global AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), and malaria programs, and to strongly urge you to continue these efforts by approving a Fiscal Year 2006 appropriation of \$6.7 billion—with at least \$1.5 billion of such funds going towards the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. We believe that this level of funding will make a significant difference in reducing the spread of these three diseases, and will help prevent the deaths of hundreds of thousands of people in the coming year.

As you know, we are currently in the third funding year of the \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief which was enacted on a bipartisan basis by a wide margin through *The United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003* (P.L. 108-25). This landmark piece of legislation recognizes the devastation that HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are wreaking throughout much of the developing world, and makes the prevention, control, and cure of each disease a major objective of US foreign policy.

The recent annual report by the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator points to a number of encouraging signs in the effort to scale up our foreign assistance programs to address HIV/AIDS, including support for 155,000 individuals on anti-retroviral treatment, and care services provided to 630,200 orphans and vulnerable children.

Yet, even as the Emergency Plan was being implemented last year, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS estimates that 3 million people died of HIV/AIDS in 2004, while another 5 million people were newly infected. Clearly much more needs to be done to combat this devastating disease.

At the same time, we can and should focus more effort on combating the global tuberculosis and malaria pandemics—the largest killers of people living with HIV/AIDS. As the primary vehicle for US foreign assistance efforts to combat TB and malaria, we must continue our strong support for the Global Fund. So far the Fund has approved \$3.1 billion in funding to 313 grants in 127 countries, and funded DOTS therapy for over 385,000 TB cases, insecticide treated bed nets for more than 1.35 million families, and artemisinin combination treatment for malaria for 300,000 people. With further funding, the Global Fund can continue to make significant advances against these two diseases while complementing the work of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria are killers. We can and should appropriate a minimum of \$6.7 billion to fight them in the coming fiscal year. The longer we wait to ramp up our foreign assistance efforts, the greater the toll that these three diseases will take on the social, political and economic systems of vulnerable countries, and the greater the cost will be to the international community.

On behalf of AIDS affected communities everywhere, we thank you for your consideration of this request, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this incredibly important issue.

Sincerely,

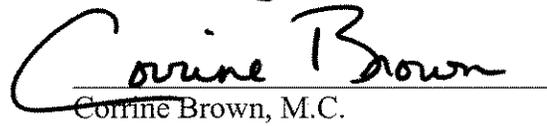

Barbara Lee, M.C.


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Sherrod Brown, M.C.

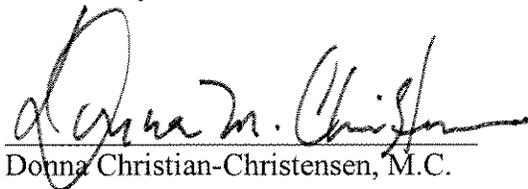

Sheila Jackson Lee, M.C.

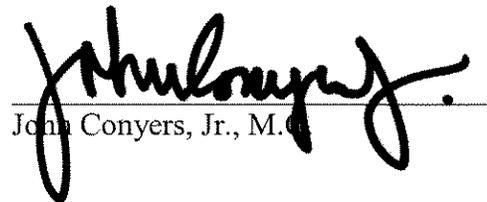

Rush Holt, M.C.

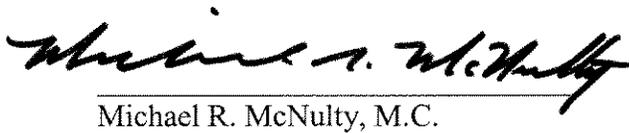

Corrine Brown, M.C.


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Diane Watson, M.C.

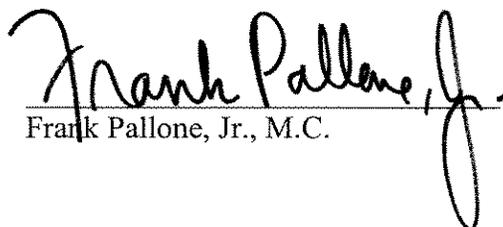

Donna Christian-Christensen, M.C.

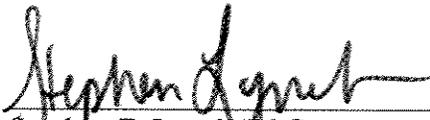

John Conyers, Jr., M.C.

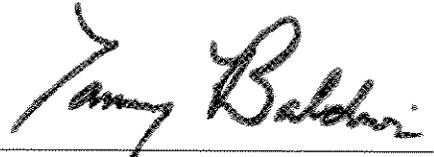

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Doris O. Matsui, M.C.

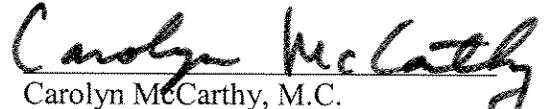

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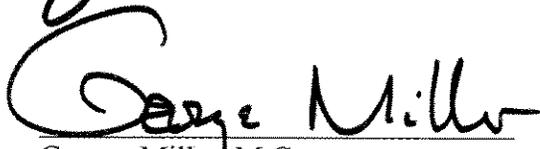

Tammy Baldwin, M.C.


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Carolyn McCarthy, M.C.

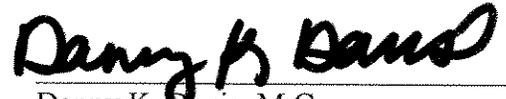

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George Miller, M.C.

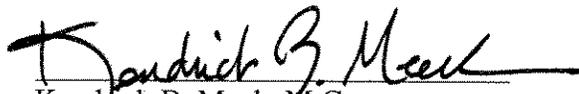

Zoe Lofgren, M.C.


Betty McCollum, M.C.

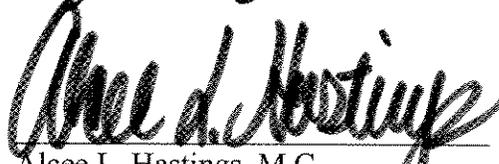

Danny K. Davis, M.C.


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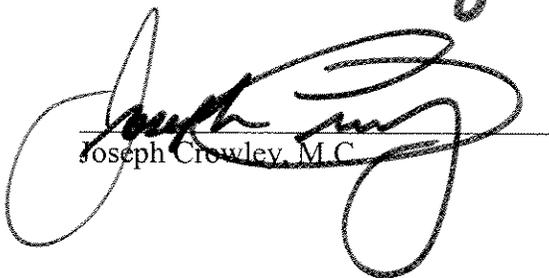

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Tom Udall

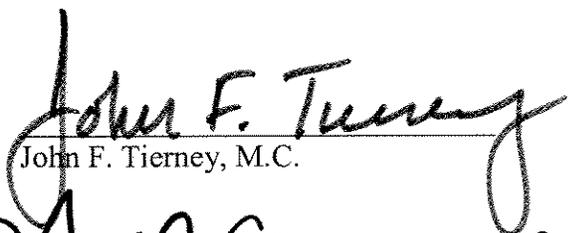
Tom Udall, M.C.

Gary L. Ackerman

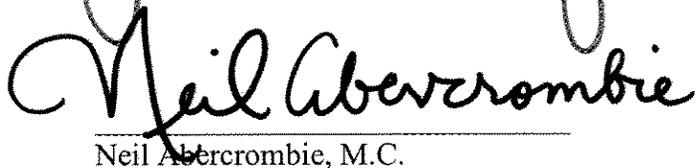
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Julia Carson, M.C.


John F. Tierney, M.C.


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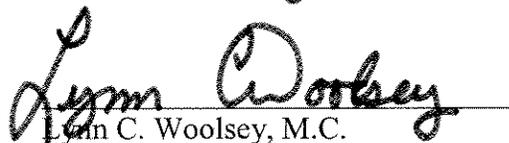

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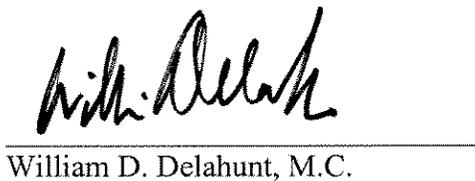

David Scott, M.C.

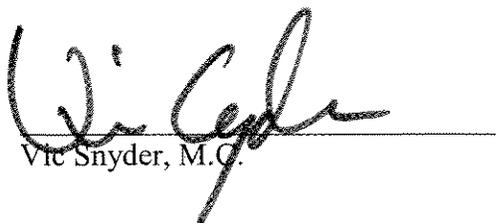

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Hilda L. Solis, M.C.

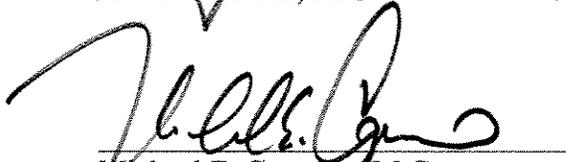

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