

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 10, 2025

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Rubio,

We write to express deep concern about the impact of the foreign aid funding pause on global health programs, particularly the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). We urge that essential HIV and AIDS services continue uninterrupted; a halt in these services threatens millions of lives, undermines decades of progress, and diminishes U.S. leadership in global health security and diplomacy.

PEPFAR operates in 54 countries, primarily across Africa, delivering life-saving care to millions through a network of over 190,000 full-time clinical and support staff.<sup>1</sup> These health professionals, including 1,422 doctors, 13,577 nurses and nursing assistants, and more than 108,000 community health workers — earning an average of just over \$3,000 per year — provide essential HIV treatment, testing, and prevention services. Building and sustaining this public health infrastructure further supports pandemic preparedness against future emerging infectious diseases and other global health threats to U.S. security.

The scope of PEPFAR's impact is staggering: each day, over 222,000 people collect antiretroviral therapy to stay healthy; more than 90% of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) initiates globally; more than 224,000 HIV tests are conducted, diagnosing 4,374 new cases, including pregnant women in antenatal care; 17,695 orphans and vulnerable children affected by HIV receive support; 7,163 cervical cancer screenings are performed, diagnosing and treating hundreds of women with pre-cancerous or cancerous conditions; and 3,618 women experiencing gender-based violence, including 779 cases of sexual violence, receive care and support.<sup>2</sup>

These are not just numbers. They represent real people whose lives are at risk from any pause or suspension in U.S. foreign assistance. Globally, HIV remains a crisis, with 1.3 million new infections annually — 3,500 every day. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 3,100 young women and girls aged 15 to 24 are newly infected with HIV every week.<sup>3</sup>

While we acknowledge that PEPFAR has received a limited waiver to restart critical HIV services, including antiretroviral treatment and prevention of mother-to-child transmissions,

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<sup>1</sup> The Andelson Office of Public Policy. *Impact of Stop Work Orders for PEPFAR Programs*. January 2025.

<https://www.amfar.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/Impact-of-Stop-Work-Orders-for-PEPFAR-Programs-2.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Department of State. *Results and Impact – PEPFAR*. 2024. <https://www.state.gov/results-and-impact-pepfar>

<sup>3</sup> UNAIDS. *Global HIV Statistics, Fact Sheet 2024*. 2024.

[https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media\\_asset/UNAIDS\\_FactSheet\\_en.pdf](https://www.unaids.org/sites/default/files/media_asset/UNAIDS_FactSheet_en.pdf)

other activities not explicitly mentioned in the PEPFAR waiver will remain suspended until further notice, including programs for prevention, key populations, adolescent girls and young women, and orphans and vulnerable children. Even short funding pauses jeopardize the ability of health workers and aid programs to provide services, with catastrophic consequences for those dependent on them.

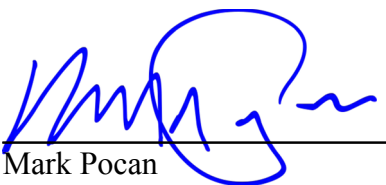
PEPFAR's success in preventing and treating HIV is not only essential to global health but also a key component of U.S. diplomatic "soft power" and a testament to America's forward thinking. Suspending these essential services creates openings for adversaries such as China and Russia to expand their influence in regions critical to U.S. strategic interests, including Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, potentially costing American jobs and diminishing our technological edge in healthcare innovations. This aid freeze endangers both health outcomes and our country's credibility as a global leader.

Given the severity of these concerns, we request your response to the following inquiries:

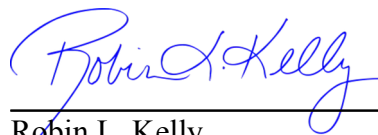
1. **Impact on Global Progress:** What assessments have been conducted on how the pause in foreign aid will affect PEPFAR's progress in preventing new HIV infections and expanding access to treatment and services for key populations?
2. **Service Continuity Plans:** What measures are being implemented to ensure that essential HIV services — including testing, prevention, treatment, and support for vulnerable populations — are maintained during the funding pause?
3. **Mitigation Strategies:** Given the recent limited guidance on implementing the PEPFAR waiver, will the Administration expand the waiver to include PEPFAR HIV prevention services and other PEPFAR programs essential to saving lives?
4. **Program Disruption Monitoring:** What steps are being taken to track the immediate and long-term impact of the aid pause on HIV service delivery and outcomes?
5. **Implications for Key Populations:** How will the aid pause impact the availability and effectiveness of HIV programming for key populations?

PEPFAR is a cornerstone of global health progress and U.S. diplomacy, with bipartisan support spanning decades. This highly successful and impactful bilateral aid program represents the monumental goodwill of the American people. We urge the Administration to take swift action to prevent disruptions in these essential services. PEPFAR is the single best example of U.S. foreign assistance that makes America safer, stronger and more prosperous. The lives of millions of people — and America's standing in the world — depend on it continuing.

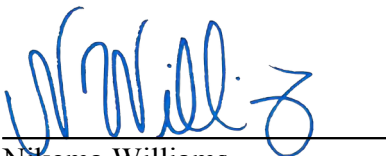
Sincerely,



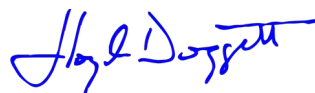
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



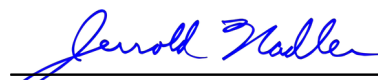
Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



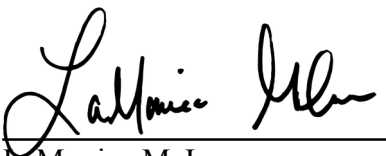
Madeleine Dean  
Member of Congress



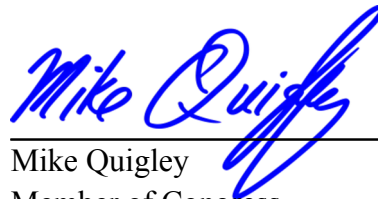
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



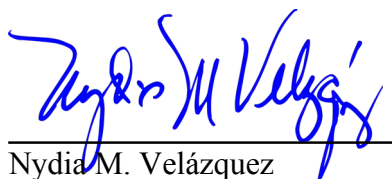
Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



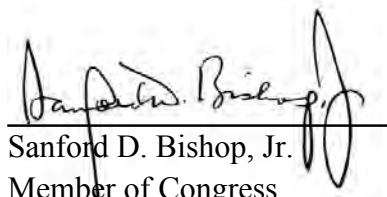
Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress




Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson  
Member of Congress



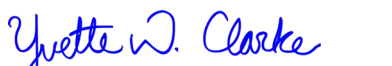
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



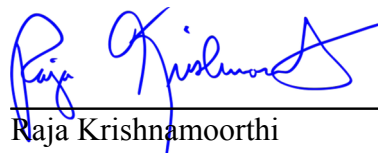
Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



Ro Khanna  
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress



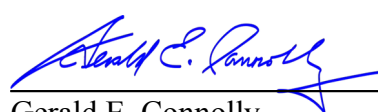
Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui  
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly  
Member of Congress



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Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Member of Congress



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Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



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John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



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Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Troy A. Carter, Sr.  
Member of Congress



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Scott H. Peters  
Member of Congress



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Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress




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Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



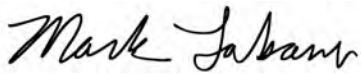
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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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Jamie Raskin  
Member of Congress



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Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



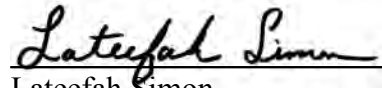
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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



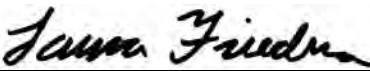
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Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



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Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



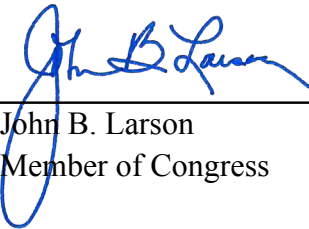
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Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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John B. Larson  
Member of Congress



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Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress



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Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



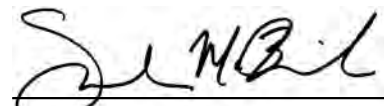
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Jimmy Panetta  
Member of Congress



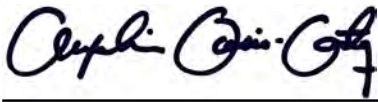
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



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Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



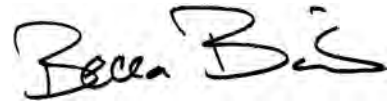
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress



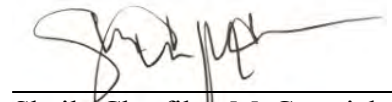
Jason Crow  
Member of Congress



Becca Balint  
Member of Congress



Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



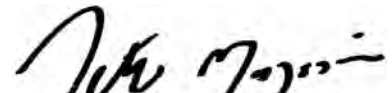
Juan Vargas  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



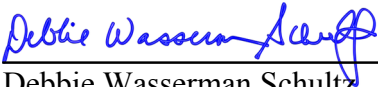
Seth Magaziner  
Member of Congress



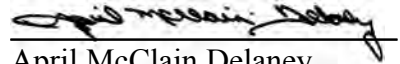
Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



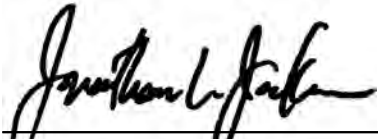
Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney  
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson  
Member of Congress



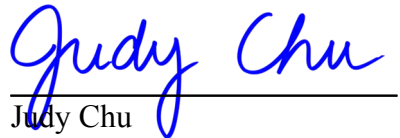
Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



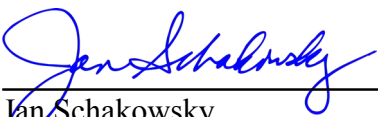
Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



Ritchie Torres  
Member of Congress



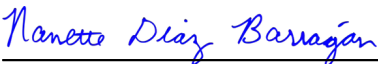
Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress





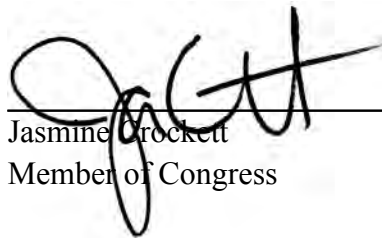
Ayanna Pressley  
Member of Congress



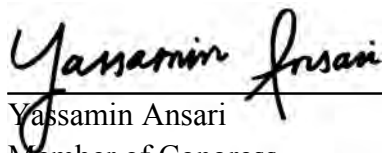
Al Green  
Member of Congress



Deborah K. Ross  
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett  
Member of Congress



Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



JM Tokuda  
Member of Congress

/s/

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



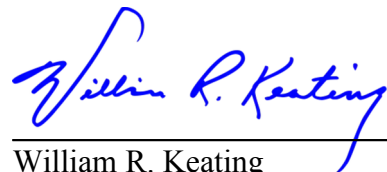
Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



Ed Case  
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



William R. Keating  
Member of Congress



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Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress



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Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress



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Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



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Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



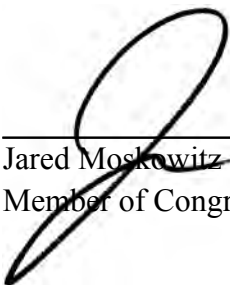
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove  
Member of Congress



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Gwen S. Moore  
Member of Congress



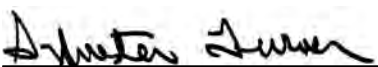
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Jared Moskowitz  
Member of Congress



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Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



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Sylvester Turner  
Member of Congress



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Mary Gay Scanlon  
Member of Congress



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George Latimer  
Member of Congress



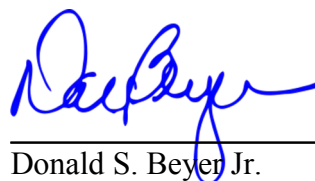
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Jake Auchincloss  
Member of Congress



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Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



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Donald S. Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress



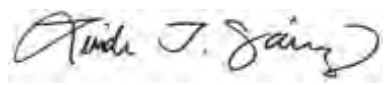
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Mikie Sherrill  
Member of Congress



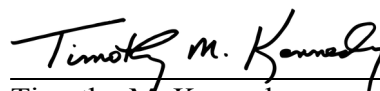
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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



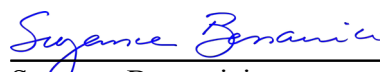
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Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



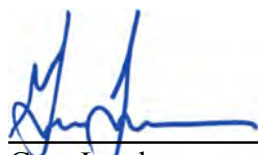
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



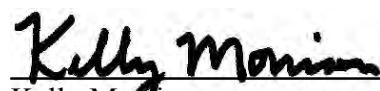
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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



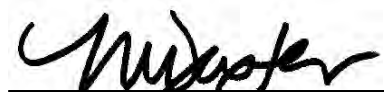
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Greg Landsman  
Member of Congress



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Kelly Morrison  
Member of Congress



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Maxine Dexter  
Member of Congress



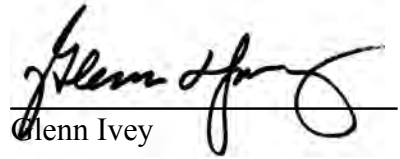
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Emily Randall  
Member of Congress



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Bill Foster  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Ivey  
Member of Congress



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Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress