February 20, 2014

Senator Robert Menendez
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Robert Corker
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Senators Menendez and Corker,

On behalf of 28 signing organizations that are members of the Global AIDS Policy Partnership (GAPP), we write to urge you to schedule a confirmation hearing for Dr. Deborah Birx next week or as quickly as possible. Dr. Birx has been nominated by the President to serve as Ambassador at Large and Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally, Department of State. Rapid confirmation of a leader of the Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator is critically important for the stewardship of the multi-billion dollar US global AIDS response, and to expedite the implementation of the provisions of the PEPFAR Stewardship and Oversight Act of 2013. Such a hearing will also provide Committee members with an opportunity to explore the current status of the PEPFAR program, which has been challenged by spending cuts and the difficult and complex work of transitioning the program to greater country ownership.

We are concerned that the lifesaving work ahead to scale up evidence-based interventions and efforts to more closely coordinate Global Fund and PEPFAR activities will be stalled in the absence of a Senate-confirmed leader of this effort. We were honored to work closely with you and your staffs on the PEPFAR Stewardship and Leadership Act of 2013 and its continued support for PEPFAR for the next five years. Dr. Birx enjoys bipartisan support in the Congress and her leadership will be critical to realizing the goals of this important new law.

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,

AIDS United
American Jewish World Service
American Medical Student Association
American Society for Clinical Pathology
amfAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Children's AIDS Fund
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Friends of the Global Fight
Health GAP (Global Access Project)
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works
IDSA Center for Global Health Policy
The Institute for Youth Development
International HIV/AIDS Alliance USA
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
International Women’s Health Coalition
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
ONE
Pathfinder International
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Action International
Population Services International
RESULTS
Student Global AIDS Campaign

Treatment Action Group