September 12, 2014

The Honorable Barbara A. Mikulski  The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairwoman  Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations  Committee on Appropriations
Financial Services and General Government  Financial Services and General Government
Washington, DC 20510  Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Mikulski and Ranking Member Shelby,

We are writing to request that you preserve critical and timely investments in global HIV/AIDS programs at Fiscal Year 2014 levels by allocating an additional $300 million to the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Fiscal Year 2015. This funding allocation will maintain our country’s commitment to creating an AIDS-free generation and allow PEPFAR to further take advantage of new opportunities that are crucial to halting this deadly epidemic.

Commitments to the Global Fund from all donors will enable the U.S. government to provide a contribution of $1.35 billion in FY 2015. We are therefore requesting that you appropriate $300 million to PEPFAR’s bilateral program to return the overall funding to FY 2014 levels. This essential funding will maintain programmatic momentum and help our bilateral and multilateral efforts achieve epidemic control and create an AIDS-free generation.

Programs like PEPFAR not only save millions of lives, but also help to foster economic and political stability on a global scale. U.S. investment in HIV/AIDS and global health programs strengthens our national security and helps safeguard the health of Americans. In the last six years, PEPFAR has tripled the amount of people on treatment and yet PEPFAR bilateral funding has dropped dramatically since 2010 and is now below FY 2008 levels. Without additional investment in PEPFAR, progress towards controlling the epidemic could stall or even regress.

Important findings have identified new and traditional tools for HIV prevention and shown the promise of antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV infection. Modeling studies project continued scale-up of antiretroviral treatment will not only save more lives but will ultimately save money by stemming the tide of new HIV infections. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), 1.7 million people around the world died from AIDS-related causes in 2011. The NIH also found that the initiation of HIV treatment to an infected individual reduced the risk of a person’s uninfected partner acquiring HIV by 96 percent.

PEPFAR has been an enormously effective bilateral program in addressing one of the three biggest killers in developing countries. PEPFAR has also invested in the sustainability of health systems and workforce due to their large-scale operations. In this challenging budget environment, we share your commitment to using taxpayer dollars as effectively as possible. We believe that a sustained U.S investment in the fight against HIV/AIDS is critical, and by re-
allocating these funds to PEPFAR we will save lives and resources in the long-term. It is our hope that you will consider this request for Fiscal Year 2015.

Sincerely,

KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND
United States Senate

BEN CARDIN
United States Senate

DICK DURBIN
United States Senate

ED MARKEY
United States Senator

AL FRANKEN
United States Senate

CHARLES SCHUMER
United States Senator