

*Advancing innovation to save lives*

April 1, 2016

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Barbara Mikulski  
Vice Chairwoman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education  
and Related Agencies  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 25 nonprofit organizations working to increase awareness of the vital role health technologies play in saving lives in the developing world—we write to highlight the critical role of US programs that support global health research and development (R&D) and encourage your continued support for this important work.

US investment in the development of new vaccines, drugs, devices, diagnostics, and other health technologies is essential to addressing some of the world's most pressing health challenges—achieving an AIDS-free generation, curbing the spread of malaria, tuberculosis, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), and ending preventable child deaths. We recognize that you face many difficult decisions and are grateful for the Committee's ongoing support for global health R&D. New global health tools and technologies hold promise to dramatically improve the lives of those living in the poorest countries around the world, and we ask for your continued support in fiscal year (FY) 2017.

**For FY 2017, we respectfully urge you to sustain and protect funding for R&D for global health products and innovations at agencies within the US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by providing at least US\$34.5 billion in funding for the National Institutes of Health (NIH), and robust funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), with \$457 million for the Center for Global Health and \$629.5 million for the National Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases (NCEZID).**

The United States has long played a leading role in research and innovation for new technologies to combat global health challenges. Global health R&D at HHS has yielded such results as the first blood test for HIV/AIDS, rapid diagnostics for the plague and rabies, and accelerated translation of basic research to product development for diseases of public health importance. It is critical to sustain and

build on this leadership: More than 80 percent of Americans say that it is important for the United States to work to improve health globally through R&D.

In addition, as our world becomes more interconnected, it is clear that global health R&D provides direct benefits to US citizens, and that the health of Americans is dependent on the health of populations abroad. Evidenced by the 2014 Ebola epidemic in West Africa, health crises abroad can become health crises at home, and protecting the well-being of Americans requires a globally-focused approach. Today's investments in global health innovations to prevent and treat diseases in the developing world such as extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, malaria, and NTDs will mean millions of future lives saved and are critical to global health security. Many diseases are only a plane ride away, or in some instances, reoccurring in the United States; it is therefore critical to our nation's public health that we work to combat these deadly diseases.

### **National Institutes of Health**

The **NIH** carries out a wide variety of global health research activities—through the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the Office of AIDS Research, the Fogarty International Center, and the National Center for Accelerating Translational Science—that make the United States a leader in research globally. **Recent NIH global health research activities include:**

- Supporting studies in the search for new HIV/AIDS interventions, including evidence that certain HIV/AIDS treatments can also prevent the transmission of the HIV virus.
- Participating in the basic research that led to the development of the first-ever microbicide gel effective in preventing HIV/AIDS.
- Conducting basic and preclinical research that provides the foundation for new product discovery and development and supporting and conducting early stage clinical trials of promising products.
- Developing the in-country research capacity of developing world partners. The Fogarty International Center supports global health research at more than 100 US universities and research centers around the world.
- Developing tools to combat neglected diseases, including vaccines for dengue fever and trachoma, as well as new drugs to treat malaria and tuberculosis.
- Contributing to the clinical evaluation of new treatment and prevention strategies for neglected diseases, including coordinating the Tuberculosis Trials Consortium—a global collaboration of researchers from CDC, domestic and international public health departments, academic medical centers, and Veterans Administration medical centers.

We recognize and are grateful for Congress' work to bolster funding for the critical programs supported by NIH. To deliver on the remarkable progress being made across the institutes, it is vital that we renew this commitment to health research. Focusing on the earliest stages of global health R&D, NIH research is imperative for ensuring that lifesaving products progress to later stages of development and ultimately become available to the communities who need them.

## **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**

The **CDC** also makes significant contributions to global health, leading global disease surveillance, capacity building, and research in the development of new tools and technologies. The CDC's ability to investigate and respond to disease outbreaks, such as the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, is essential to protecting citizens both at home and abroad. The work of its scientists has led to major advances against devastating diseases, including the eradication of smallpox and early identification of HIV/AIDS. **CDC continues to make an impact on global health through critical research activities, including:**

- Monitoring and tracking infectious diseases worldwide.
- Providing critical intelligence needed to effectively implement control and prevention programs for infectious diseases.
- Alerting researchers when new trends or disease strains emerge, so that R&D efforts can intensify.
- Monitoring diseases domestically to make the public aware of an emergence of an infectious disease from abroad.
- Training epidemiologists in low and middle-income countries on how to detect and rapidly respond to infectious disease outbreaks.
- Developing diagnostic tools to accurately identify global diseases, including the bubonic plague, rabies, and Ebola.

The work conducted at CDC's Center for Global Health and NCEZID is critical to saving lives at home and abroad, and to promoting global health security. Critical work at NCEZID includes innovative technologies to provide a rapid diagnostic test for the Ebola virus, a new vaccine to improve rabies control, a new and more accurate diagnostic test for dengue virus, and coordination of the National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, focused on preventing, detecting, and controlling outbreaks of antibiotic resistant pathogens, such as drug-resistant tuberculosis.

Programs at CDC's Center for Global Health—including the Global HIV/AIDS, Global Immunization, Parasitic Diseases and Malaria, Global Disease Detection and Emergency Response, and Global Public Health Capacity Development programs—have also yielded tremendous results in the development of new vaccines, drugs, microbicides, and other tools to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, and lesser known diseases like leishmaniasis, dengue fever, and schistosomiasis. These key programs have important and distinct global health missions—working in more than 60 countries— and we urge the Committee to support these accounts with investments separate from those in the Global Health Security Agenda or the emergency Ebola response.

**We strongly recommend that you fund NIH and CDC as robustly as possible. This includes at minimum:**

**NIH**

**\$34.5 billion**

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases	\$4.71 billion
Office of AIDS Research	\$3.1 billion
National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences	\$685 million
Fogarty International Center	\$70.45 million
National Institute of Child Health and Human Development	\$1.39 billion

**CDC**

Center for Emerging Zoonotic and Infectious Diseases	\$629.49 million
Center for Global Health	\$457 million
HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, Sexually Transmitted Infections and Tuberculosis Tuberculosis	\$142.26 million

In addition to bringing lifesaving tools to those who need them most, global health R&D is a smart economic investment for the United States. Investment in global health R&D drives job creation, spurs business activity, and benefits academic institutions: **Nearly 64 cents of every US dollar spent on global health R&D goes directly to US-based researchers.**

We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health innovation, and ask that support for global health R&D not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts. Now more than ever, Congress must make smart budget decisions. Global health research that improves the lives of people around the world—while at the same time supporting US interests, creating jobs, and spurring economic growth at home—is a win-win.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC Director Erin Will Morton at [ewmorton@ghtcoalition.org](mailto:ewmorton@ghtcoalition.org) or (202) 540-4379, if you have questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,



Aeras



American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene



AVAC: Global Advocacy for HIV Prevention



Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation



Global Health Council



HarvestPlus



International AIDS Vaccine Initiative



Infectious Diseases Society of America



IVCC



International Vaccine Institute



Medicines for Malaria Venture



PATH



Sabin Vaccine Institute



Treatment Action Group



TB Alliance



Washington Global Health Alliance