

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

December 1, 2022

Dear Senator Leahy:

As members and friends of the Neglected Tropical Disease (NTD) Roundtable, we want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to you on your retirement and extraordinary career of service. Your commitment and ingenuity to advance a healthier, more equitable future for all, especially in the fight against NTDs, have left an indelible positive impact on the most vulnerable communities around the world.

Because of your visionary leadership, the U.S. government can stand proud as the largest supporter of NTD control efforts worldwide. The pivotal role you and your staff (particularly, Mr. Tim Rieser) played in creating the USAID NTD Program, and, thereafter, championing strategic and sustained federal investment for the program, has helped drive tremendous progress toward a world without disease. With your partnership, the USAID NTD Program has expanded from just five countries, since the program's launch in 2006, to over 30 countries to date. Through vital public-private partnerships and cutting-edge science and technology, the U.S. government has leveraged more than \$28.6 billion in donated medicines, leading to the delivery of more than 3 billion treatments to approximately 1.5 billion people across the globe, and has advanced research to develop the treatments and diagnostics that are needed for future progress.

As a result of the Program, more than 10 USAID-supported countries have successfully eliminated at least one NTD, and more than a half billion people across the world no longer require treatment for lymphatic filariasis, trachoma, and onchocerciasis. Just recently, Togo was recognized by the WHO for becoming the *first* country in the world to eliminate four NTDs in just 11 years. These public health milestones would not be possible without your unwavering support and unparalleled ability to turn bold ideas into tangible policy solutions.

Even in the face of enormous fiscal pressure, we thank you for fighting to make NTD initiatives a federal priority. We also want to recognize your indispensable role in fostering bipartisan support for NTD control efforts as part of a broader U.S. global health agenda. The collaboration of both parties remains integral to addressing the greatest challenges confronting global health, and we share your hope that this strong bipartisan tradition will continue.

Again, congratulations on your remarkable tenure! We wish you the best and commend you for all that you have done to improve millions of lives both at home and abroad.

Fondly,

The Undersigned Organizations

American Leprosy Missions
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
Christian Connections for International Health
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Georgia AIDS Coalition
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
Helen Keller International
Management Sciences for Health
Medical Impact
PATH
RTI International
The Carter Center
The END Fund
The Task Force for Global Health
Treatment Action Group
WaterAid America