

May 9, 2023

The Honorable Robert Menendez
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jim Risch
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Relations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs U.S. House of
Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs U.S. House of
Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Menendez and McCaul and Ranking Members Risch and Meeks:

On behalf of organizations committed to ending HIV/AIDS for children and their families and ensuring children affected by HIV and AIDS have access to services they require to thrive, we write you today in strong support for the simple and expeditious reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program. As we celebrate PEPFAR's 20th anniversary, bipartisan Congressional leaders should feel particularly proud of the program's impact on mothers, children, and their families.

Preventing mother to child transmission has been one of the true successes of the program. Because of PEPFAR, 5.5 million infections have been averted in children, and increased efforts to reach pregnant women led to new infections in children being reduced by 54 percent from 2010 to 2020. Furthermore, treatment coverage for HIV positive children and youth nearly doubled since 2010, increasing dramatically the number of HIV positive children who are identified, linked to and retained in HIV care and treatment.

Additionally, through PEPFAR support, more than 7 million orphans, vulnerable children (OVC) and their caregivers accessed critical care and support services. PEPFAR's OVC programs are uniquely poised to address the myriad of factors that put children and adolescents at risk, serving children in a range of adverse situations. Thanks to the historic bipartisan leadership, there are millions of children and families who are alive and thriving today.

The job that began 20 years ago is not yet finished, especially for children. In the last two decades, there have been significant advances in knowledge and programmatic best practices for reaching children and families, and we must ensure that we continue to use all the tools available to support this population. This includes strong local leadership and partnerships with community and faith-based organizations.

While persistent gaps remain, especially with regards to pediatric treatment access, we are confident that with continued U.S. political leadership the end of AIDS in children is within reach. We urge you to think of the millions of children served by the PEPFAR program as you make decisions about reauthorization. Simple date-change legislation will ensure robust bipartisan support for the program continues, and services for children and their families remain uninterrupted.

Thank you again for your leadership. Please do not hesitate to reach out to Katie Coester (kcoester@pedaids.org), or Lisa Bos (lbos@worldvision.org) with any questions.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics

Children's AIDS Fund International

Christian Connections for International Health

Coalition For Children Affected by AIDS

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Food for the Hungry

Save the Children

The 2030 Collaborative

World Relief

World Vision