



December 16, 2008

The Honorable Barack Obama
Office of the President Elect
Washington, DC

Dear President Elect Obama:

We are writing to urge you to affirm the United States' continued leadership on HIV/AIDS by appointing a permanent high-level Global AIDS Coordinator within 30 days of assuming the Presidency. A strong, independent Coordinator role has been critical to providing focused leadership on the AIDS crisis and achieving tremendous results to date.

We are grateful for your support of global health while in the Senate, and for your pledge to double foreign assistance, including \$50 billion for HIV/AIDS. Led by Senator Joe Biden, the Tom Lantos and Henry J. Hyde United States Global Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008 (P.L. 110-293) was a major bipartisan achievement.

While the Lantos-Hyde Act charts a path forward, now is not the time to put our global AIDS program on auto-pilot.

The Global AIDS Coordinator in the Obama administration will be immediately responsible for developing a new five-year global AIDS strategy that will shape our response to the epidemic well into the next decade. Our shared goals are ambitious: 12 million new infections prevented, with a renewed emphasis on evidence-based approaches and the needs of women and girls; care for 12 million people affected by AIDS, including five million orphans and vulnerable children; four million people supported on treatment through bilateral and multilateral funding; 140,000 new health care professionals trained and retained; and improved and better coordinated efforts to fight co-morbidity associated with tuberculosis, malaria, and malnutrition among people living with HIV/AIDS.

The realization of these goals will require more than competent administration. It will demand vision and leadership to usher in a new era of bold U.S. action on the global AIDS epidemic.

We support calls to elevate the priority of global development within your administration. We look forward to working with you to support a strategy to reform foreign aid to make the Millennium Development Goals truly America's goals. However, more effective, better coordinated assistance must be pursued without diminishing focused leadership on AIDS or prematurely consolidating roles and responsibilities.

We urge you to reaffirm our commitment to the fight against HIV/AIDS by prioritizing the appointment of a Global AIDS Coordinator within the first month of your Administration.



Sincerely,

Advocates for Youth

Africa Action

African Services Committee

AIDS Action Council

AIDS Institute

AIDS Policy Project

AIDS Project Los Angeles

American Medical Student Association

Community HIV/AIDS Mobilization Project (CHAMP)

Global Action for Children

Global Justice

Global AIDS Alliance

Health GAP

HIV Medicine Association of IDSA

Partners in Health

Physicians for Human Rights

RESULTS

Student Global AIDS Campaign

Treatment Action Group

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church & Society