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November 15, 2023

The Honorable Benjamin Cardin
Chairman, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael McCaul
Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable James Risch
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations
423 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Gregory Meeks
Ranking Member, House Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairs Cardin and McCaul and Ranking Members Risch and Meeks,

AdvaMedDx submits this letter to respectfully request that Congress prioritize the reauthorization of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program. AdvaMedDx is a division of the Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed) and represents over 70 manufacturers of innovative *in vitro* diagnostic (IVD) tests in the United States and abroad. AdvaMedDx members manufacture laboratory and point-of-care diagnostic tests and laboratory instrumentation used to run tests for the commercial market in the U.S. and abroad.

PEPFAR is a lifesaving program that is more critical today than ever. The results of the program speak for themselves: The 20-year legacy of the program and the transformative impact innovative treatments, diagnostics, and other tools have had on health outcomes across the 50+ countries where PEPFAR operates have saved 25 million lives, provided 20.1 million people with necessary antiretroviral treatment, led to 5.5 million babies born HIV-free to mothers living with HIV, and has led to substantial declines in



new HIV diagnoses globally. Moreover, PEPFAR has provided HIV diagnostic testing services to 64.7 million people.¹

In addition to the impacts the program has had on HIV/AIDS, PEPFAR has also been linked to other positive public health measures in the countries where it operates, including a reduction in maternal and child mortality and improved immunization rates.² Importantly, PEPFAR has also strengthened the health infrastructure of many countries, enabling them to better respond more to other public health crises, such as COVID-19, Ebola, and Mpox.

Ending HIV/AIDS as a public health threat requires a sustained commitment from the U.S. Government. In the last twenty years, PEPFAR has brought reliable medical technology, including diagnostic tests, and quality medicine to Africa and other regions around the world while reducing the global threat of disease. Without the U.S.' continued, long-term investment in this work, the fight against HIV/AIDS could decelerate and the reliability of health systems in PEPFAR countries could falter.

We are concerned by the recent lapse in PEPFAR funding and efforts to advance only a one-year reauthorization of PEPFAR, rather than a longer-standing reauthorization. We believe this uncertainty will lead to health system investments made through PEPFAR becoming shorter in duration, costing more, providing more limited functionality, and ultimately destabilizing capabilities for future pandemic response.

The PEPFAR program is an important effort of U.S. public health diplomacy that has impacted millions of people and scores of countries around the world. Continued PEPFAR reauthorization underscores the value of the program and the important role that the U.S. plays in global health. We urge Congress to swiftly reauthorize funding for PEPFAR for a duration longer than one year.

Finally, we note that many of the diagnostic equipment and tests used in the PEPFAR program are developed and manufactured in the United States. As a result, continued funding for the program will have a positive impact on the U.S. economy and job market.

We appreciate your consideration of this letter and would be happy to speak with you further about the benefits of the PEPFAR program.

Sincerely,



Zach Rothstein
Executive Director
AdvaMedDx



¹ “Results and Impact – PEPFAR.” U.S. Department of State, March 22, 2023. <https://www.state.gov/results-and-impact-pepfar/>.

² Kates, Jennifer, Gary Gaumer, William Crown, Dhvani Hariharan, and Allyala Nandakumar. Issue brief. *Assessing PEPFAR’s Impact: Analysis of Maternal and Child Health Spillover Effects in PEPFAR Countries*. KFF, May 2022. <https://www.kff.org/global-health-policy/issue-brief/assessing-pepfars-impact-analysis-of-maternal-and-child-health-spillover-effects-in-pepfar-countries/>.

