

Nomination of a U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator

July 16, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We, the undersigned organizations working to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and globally, urge you to nominate a highly credentialed and demonstrably committed individual to lead the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) as the Department of State's U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, with no further delay. PEPFAR has been without a permanent leader for more than seven months, during which the United Nations High-Level Meeting on ending HIV by 2030 took place without a clear commitment of ongoing leadership in the global HIV response from the U.S.

The development of a new PEPFAR strategy for 2021-2025 is also underway without a permanent leader in place to shape the future of the flagship U.S. global disease response as the COVID-19 pandemic threatens more than a decade and a half of unprecedented investment and significant, hard-earned gains in preventing HIV transmissions and decreasing HIV-related deaths. While PEPFAR programs on the ground continue to function and provide essential services including lifesaving antiretroviral treatment to more than 18 million people, PEPFAR partners in countries with high HIV prevalence are concerned that the longest delay since the inception of the program in nominating a new U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator signals a lack of commitment to the program and its goals.

We are pleased that Harold Phillips was appointed as the Director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy to oversee efforts to end HIV as an epidemic in the U.S. His appointment brought to the position a leader with strong credentials and lived experience to guide the work ahead. As the COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, however, our efforts at home will not be successful without a comparable commitment and leader to dramatically reduce the impacts of HIV around the world.

As the global HIV and infectious diseases community gathers during the International AIDS Conference on HIV Science this month to share critical advances in HIV research, we urge you to act now in nominating a U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator and signaling to the world that the U.S. indeed remains the world's leader toward ending the global HIV epidemic.

Respectfully submitted by the undersigned organizations,

African American Health Alliance
AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama
AIDS Cure Research Collaborative
AIDS Foundation Chicago
AIDS Treatment Activists Coalition (ATAC)
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine

American Jewish World Service
amfAR, Foundation for AIDS Research
AVAC
Black AIDS Institute
CHANGE (Global Advocacy for Change at IPPFWHR)
Children's AIDS Fund International
Council for Global Equality
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Fast-Track Cities Institute
Fenway Health
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Global Health Council
Global Network of Black People working in HIV
Health GAP
HealthHIV
Heartland Alliance International
HIV + Aging Research Project--Palm Springs
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Infectious Diseases Society of America
International Association of Providers of AIDS Care
International Partnership for Microbicides
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Latino Commission on AIDS
MPact: Global Action for Gay Health & Rights
NASTAD
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Working Positive Coalition
NMAC
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
Partners In Health
PATH
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA
PrEP4ALL
Prevention Access Campaign
R2H Action [Right to Health]
The AIDS Institute
The Well Project
Treatment Action Group
US People living with HIV Caucus