

APRIL 16, 2003



EAGLE FORUM

316 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 203, Washington D.C. 20003
(202) 544-0353; fax (202) 547-6996

Dear President Bush,

During your State of the Union Address on January 28, you called for an Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, a five-year, \$15 billion African and Caribbean initiative to provide treatment, prevention, and humane care for those afflicted as well as orphaned children. As Congress works on legislation to authorize this program, we urge you to work for and only sign a bill that contains legislative language codifying your priorities.

Focusing relief money through bilateral assistance is imperative to ensuring that countries most afflicted receive resources. We urge you to minimize involvement with the Global Fund because U.S. influence in this organization is quite limited, which makes it unaccountable to American taxpayers. Global Fund proposals are submitted on behalf of a consortium of government, non-governmental organization, foundations, and other entities. UNFPA, which you rightly cut-off U.S. contributions to, has been part of some proposals. The Global Fund is a back-door for groups to circumvent U.S. law and priorities. Greater transparency in the Global Fund is also needed. Very few details about the first round of funded proposals are available publicly. H.R. 1298 calls for up to \$1 billion for the Global Fund. In the name of accountability to taxpayers, this amount must be cut dramatically.

Prevention dollars should be spent based on the most successful model in Africa to date, Uganda's "ABC" approach. This model prioritizes abstinence, being faithful to a monogamous partner, and only as a last result, condoms. Ugandans have overwhelmingly responded to this campaign. From 1995 to 1999, HIV transmission rates plunged from 18.5 percent to 8.3 percent. Historically, U.S.-funded programs have largely emphasized and supported only the "c" in the ABC approach. H.R. 1298 as reported by the House International Relations Committee gives equal priority to abstinence, monogamy, and condoms. USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios has stated that the ABC model is American policy to combat the AIDS crisis. Legislative language is needed to codify that policy so that prevention funds are re-prioritized to follow the successful Uganda model. Please sign only a bill that contains statutory language putting the "A" and "B" as leading priorities to reduce HIV/AIDS.

The House International Relations Committee narrowly voted against providing protection for faith-based groups that do not distribute condoms as a form of AIDS prevention. The Catholic Church cares for 1 in 4 people being treated for AIDS worldwide. Faith-based groups are key to providing treatment and prevention. The AIDS bill signed into law must provide explicit conscience protection.

H.R. 1298 does not contain fully binding percentages expressing how funding should be used. Treatment is set at 55 percent, and 10 percent is set aside for AIDS orphans. Therefore, 35 percent of \$15 billion is essentially a slush fund. We urge you to work for a bill that sets definitive legal percentages to guarantee that taxpayer money is properly used.

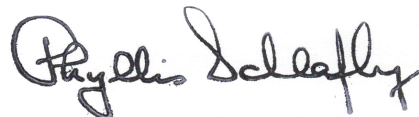
Another major problem with H.R. 1298 as reported by the House International Relations Committee is that the AIDS coordinator position will require Senate confirmation. If this provision is maintained, you can expect your nominee to face the same fate as Miguel Estrada and Priscilla Owen.

In March 2003, a \$50 million HIV/AIDS initiative “for community and faith-based groups” was awarded to a consortium of organizations, which included the International HIV/AIDS Alliance. The Alliance is working to change laws regarding prostitutes, in their words “sex workers.” Rep. Chris Smith (R-NJ) successfully added language to H.R. 1298 to ensure that none of the AIDS funds go to organizations that do not have an explicit policy opposing prostitution and sex trafficking. The United States is on record opposing prostitution and sex trafficking. Not one tax-dollar should go to any organization that works to undermine that policy.

We are working to ensure that you will have flexibility to oversee implementation of the Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. This flexibility must include the option to extend the “Mexico City” policy to AIDS funding, which currently only covers the international population control account. Shortly after your January 28 speech, we were assured that the Global AIDS money would be covered by Mexico City, but now we are told that you will not stop pro-abortion groups from receiving funds. We are disappointed by this news and urge you to reconsider. Extending Mexico City would be widely welcomed by taxpayers. It would be consistent with your previous decisions, and it is the right thing to do. A February 2003 State Department memo recognizes that only a handful of NGOs would be affected. But some groups are salivating at this new funding opportunity. We can expect more grants like the 2002 National Institutes of Health 5-year grant (\$3.2 million in the first year) for HIV/AIDS research awarded to South African abortionist James McIntyre, who also serves as National Vice Chairman of South African Planned Parenthood. Your AIDS initiative is about stopping a crisis; it should not be morphed into another funding stream for the abortion industry.

We are diligently working with the House and Senate to send you a bill based on the priorities you have set forth. H.R. 1298 fails to meet that standard. Without solid policy written into the AIDS legislation from its inception, HIV transmission will continue to rage on, and billions of tax-dollars will be wasted. Please do not sign a bill based on a perception of compassion. Getting the policy right today means giving greater hope to ending the AIDS crisis worldwide beyond the years of your Administration.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Phyllis Schlafly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

CC: Karl Rove
Jay Lefkowitz
Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist
House Speaker Dennis Hastert
House Majority Leader Tom DeLay
House Majority Whip Roy Blunt
House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde
House Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Bill Tauzin