

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
Vice President Kamala D. Harris  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

We appreciate your long-standing history as champions in the fight against HIV/AIDS globally and domestically. We are writing to ask that the Administration swiftly act to nominate a qualified individual to be the Global AIDS Coordinator and appoint members of the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA).

The Office of the Global AIDS Coordinator (OGAC) is critical both for the management of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) program and also as the key diplomatic U.S. representative working with governments and multilateral agencies on the global AIDS response. Congressionally confirmed leadership is overdue as the PEPFAR planning process for 2021 is already substantially complete, and the 2021-25 PEPFAR strategy is being developed, without input from the yet to be selected Global AIDS Coordinator. This leadership vacuum will mean it could take an additional time for your Administration to influence the strategic direction of the program, after the PEPFAR Strategic Plan is already in place. Important decisions on how to sustain hard-fought gains against the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the face of the coronavirus pandemic require the strong leadership a Global AIDS Coordinator can provide.

This nomination also intersects with a great opportunity to demonstrate U.S. leadership in ending the HIV pandemic. On the heels of the UN High-Level Meeting on HIV/AIDS and the 40th anniversary of the first CDC recognition of AIDS, it is imperative that the U.S. show its long-standing commitment as the global leader in the fight against HIV by prioritizing strong PEPFAR leadership. Swift appointment of this position would show the world that the fight against HIV is far from over and would encourage our global partners to build on and invest in the tremendous success to date.

We thank you for appointing Harold Philips as the Director of the White House Office of HIV/AIDS Policy. This position, which has remained vacant since 2017, will be an important coordinator within the White House to reach the goal of ending the HIV epidemic in the United States by 2030.

Additionally, we encourage you to appoint a full roster of members to the President's Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS that is representative of the HIV epidemic in the United States. PACHA provides important expertise to the Department of Health and Human Services, including voices of those most impacted by HIV will ensure that HIV programs are more impactful and effective. We ask that you ensure that the leadership and membership of PACHA is representative of the communities most impacted by the HIV epidemic, specifically people living with HIV, people of color, transgender/gender non-conforming individuals, and young people.

The importance of strong U.S. leadership on HIV both globally and domestically cannot be understated. At a time when progress in the fight to end HIV is threatened by global economic insecurity, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and worldwide political instability, it is vital that the U.S. assert its historic leadership role. The U.S. commitment to capitalizing on the life-saving progress made by our investments in global HIV/AIDS research and programming has the world on track to end the epidemic at home and abroad, and these gains should not and must not be abandoned. The nomination of a Global AIDS Coordinator and nominees for PACHA co-chairs must move forward so these programs can continue their crucial work.

Sincerely,



Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress  
HIV/AIDS Caucus, Co-Chair



Jenniffer González-Colón  
Member of Congress  
HIV/AIDS Caucus, Co-Chair