

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
U.S. Secretary of State  
2201 C St NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Samantha Power  
Administrator, USAID  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20004

May 19, 2021

Dear Secretary Blinken and Administrator Power,

We, the undersigned, write to request that the Biden-Harris Administration include amongst its earliest disbursements of funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), no less than \$300 million to support the COVID-19 related efforts of the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) to address urgent global manufacturing and research priorities on the variants of the virus that are driving the current wave of the pandemic.

Through the ARPA, Congress generously appropriated \$11.6 billion for the global response to COVID-19, which included “a contribution to a multilateral vaccine development partnership to support epidemic preparedness.” CEPI is the instrument that matches this Congressional intent. Congressional support for an investment in CEPI through ARPA has also been reiterated recently in letters led by [Rep. Tim Burchett \(R-TN\) and Rep. Susan Wild \(D-PA\)](#), as well as [Sen. Chris Murphy \(D-CT\) and Rep. Ami Bera \(D-CA\)](#).

CEPI holds both the mandate and expertise to continue to accelerate the development of vaccines needed globally and to counter emerging variants of the virus contributing to the humanitarian and health emergencies in India and Brazil. That effort safeguards the recent progress we have made in fighting the pandemic here at home and will provide the tools for ultimately reaching global herd immunity. An immediate investment in CEPI is a key component to increase global production and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines to the world, develop and adapt vaccines to address the variants, accelerate an end to the acute phase of the pandemic, and get ahead of the next emerging threat. We are in a race against time; this investment cannot wait.

As leaders of organizations deeply engaged in the global COVID-19 response, we recognize there are many pressing concerns that require investment as the virus continues to spread. To deliver vaccines that will end this pandemic, investment in CEPI remains a vital and urgent priority. We urge the US to provide this funding without delay.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this urgent matter with you and your teams.

Thank you for your consideration,

John Ariale, Interim President & Executive Director, Global Health Council  
Tom Hart, Acting Chief Executive Officer, ONE Campaign  
Nikolaj Gilbert, President & CEO, PATH

Jamie Bay Nishi, Director, Global Health Technologies Coalition  
Martha Rebour, Executive Director, Shot@Life  
Carolyn Reynolds, Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network  
Michael Sheldrick, Co-Founder & Chief Policy and Government Relations Officer, Global Citizen  
Marian W. Wentworth, President & CEO, Management Sciences for Health

cc:

Gayle Smith, Coordinator for Global COVID Response and Health Security, Department of State  
Beth Cameron, Senior Director for Global Health Security and Biodefense, NSC  
Kerry Pelzman, Acting Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, USAID  
Natasha Bilimoria, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Global Health, USAID  
Jeremy Konyndyk, Executive Director, COVID-19, Office of the Administrator, USAID