GHTC
global health technologies coalition

advancing **innovation** to save lives

May 8, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Senate Appropriations Committee
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Appropriations Committee
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Chair
Subcommittee on Defense
317 Russel Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Defense
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee:

As members of the Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)—a group of more than 50 nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and aligned businesses advancing the creation of new drugs, vaccines, diagnostics, and other tools for global health—we write in support of the Department of Defense's (DOD's) research and development (R&D) programs for new infectious disease technologies that are used to protect service members and improve global health.

Our request: For fiscal year 2027, we respectfully urge the Committee to sustain and protect funding for research to develop and promote access to new global health technologies at DOD within the Defense Health Program and the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program (CDMRP) by requesting that malaria and tuberculosis (TB) are included in CDMRP.

Global health R&D and DOD

In addition to protecting service members, DOD research programs also benefit global health. These incidental benefits have no additional cost to DOD, but have the potential to advance other US government priorities and hasten innovation. Millions of people die every year because we do not have the technologies to save them. The United States, as a biomedical research powerhouse, can change history through relatively small public investments.

Why global health matters: In addition to protecting the warfighter, global health is a bipartisan cornerstone of US foreign policy. Supporting the public health of partner countries has practical and moral justifications.

- It protects Americans from national health security threats, increases global political stability, lifts economies, and most importantly, saves millions of lives.
- As an example, the US government's multi-agency Operation Warp Speed supported the development of four globally distributed Food and Drug Administration-approved or authorized COVID-19 vaccines. This helped to save 14 million lives in the first year of the pandemic.

Additionally, the vaccines created an estimated $895 billion of savings in direct healthcare costs between December 2020 and March 2022.

The challenge: In 2024, 1.23 million people died from TB, 1.3 million people were newly diagnosed with HIV, and 282 million people were infected by malaria. In 2021, at least 1.14 million people died from bacterial antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and 4.71 million deaths were associated with bacterial AMR. More than 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a group of 21 diseases caused by a variety of pathogens. Women and children are often most vulnerable, especially in low-resource settings.

New medical products are needed to overcome neglected diseases, to combat AMR, to replace outdated and toxic treatments, to prepare for future pandemics, and to better reach low-resource, remote, and unstable settings. Examples of the technologies we need:

- New tools to prevent, diagnose and treat drug-resistant microbial infections
- A vaccine and cure for HIV/AIDS.
- Innovative treatments and prevention technologies for malaria.
- Shorter tuberculosis treatment regimens and a more effective vaccine.
- Better diagnostics and treatments for many NTDs.
- And *many others*.

Why public investment is needed: US government support for this research is critical because the private sector typically does not invest in technologies that have limited commercial market incentives.

- Public investments often support Product Development Partnerships—not-for-profit organizations that convene government, science, private-sector, and community partners to develop new global health technologies.

The bottom line: Without new global health technologies, the United States will face increased risks to both global health objectives and service member protection.

DOD CDMRP: a congressionally created biomedical innovation driver for our servicemembers

What is needed: Congress should include TB and malaria in their list of diseases covered by the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Program's (CDMRP) Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP).

Why the CDMRP's PRMRP: Including TB and malaria in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program will allow funding for groundbreaking research and product development on these diseases, which could help advance new therapies, especially for drug-resistant infections that are driving the global antimicrobial resistance crisis. Protecting our service members from TB and malaria is critical, given the global footprint of the US military. The CDMRP provides researchers with a unique opportunity to accelerate innovative solutions to better protect our service members and their families abroad as they

serve our country. Dismantling the PRMRP and the CDMRP would undermine efforts to protect those serving abroad from serious global disease threats.

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Infectious disease research protects the lives of our soldiers and millions of people around the world, fosters goodwill that enhances our national security, and promotes economic growth.

In this moment of transition and reflection on our health and research infrastructure, it is more important than ever to preserve the progress we've made and invest boldly in the innovations of tomorrow. Global health R&D is a smart, strategic investment in a safer, healthier, and more prosperous America.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC US Policy and Advocacy Officer Alex Long at along@ghtcoalition.org if you have questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kristie Mikus, GHTC Executive Director and GHTC member organizations listed below

American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene

American Society for Microbiology

AVAC

Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, U.S.

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation

Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership

Georgia Life Sciences

Global Health Council

Impact Global Health

Medicines for Malaria Venture

Treatment Action Group

Global Health Technologies Coalition

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative

Innovative Vector Control Consortium

Population Council

TB Alliance