

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 Lindsey Graham
Chair
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
211 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign
Operations, and Related Programs
722 Hart 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 to highlight the critical role of US programs that support global health research and development (R&D) and encourage your continued support for this important work.

Stronger global health R&D positions the United States to be better prepared for the next pandemic, saves lives, and builds research capacity both at home and abroad. Public funding for global health research is a strategic investment that strengthens our economy, supports US leadership in innovation, and keeps Americans safe. We cannot afford to fall behind in this area as other nations increase their investments in global health innovation. Since January 2025, the critical R&D work conducted through US Agency for International Development (USAID) funding has remained at a standstill. Many of our coalition members had their programs terminated, putting progress toward tackling some of the world's most pressing challenges on an indefinite hold. However, in the fiscal year 2026 (FY26) State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) bill and report, Congress made the important step to mandate the State Department's role in innovation through investments in R&D. This mandate was through the creation of the Prevention, Treatment, and Response Initiative (PTRI), a disease agnostic funding mechanism at the State Department that would carry the baton once held by USAID.

GHTC urges Congress to support the State Department's creation of PTRI and assert its funding and oversight authority pertaining to State Department programs that keep Americans safe, save lives, and maintain international stability—a key facet of our national security.

Our request: In fiscal year 2027, we strongly urge the Committee to support global health research by:

- Sustaining FY26 funding levels for global health programs under the US Department of State.
- Including bill language directing the State Department to increase global health innovation spending through PTRI with a funding floor of \$50 million.
- Including report language directing the State Department to increase global health innovation

spending through PTRI with a funding floor of \$50 million.

- Including report language requesting guardrails around PTRI that ensure it is used to confront global health challenges through investment in research and development—not solely scaling up already existing technologies.
- Including report language that the State Department produce an annual report on its global health research programs.

Global health R&D is a practical and moral imperative

Why global health matters: Global health is a bipartisan cornerstone of US foreign policy. Supporting the public health of partner countries has practical and moral justifications:

- Investments in global health programming are a fundamental pillar of America's national security agenda. It makes America safer by supporting early detection and protection from dangerous outbreaks of infectious diseases and by improving health infrastructure to bolster prevention, preparedness, and response to chronic and emergent health needs.
- Global health makes America stronger and more prosperous by strengthening global economic stability, as well as social cohesion, and unleashes American ingenuity in creating medicines, treatment, technology, manufacturing, health education, and more. Effective global health programs save and improve lives, stabilize and secure international trade and global supply chains, and accelerate prosperity at home and around the world.
- **Investments in global health are highly effective.** In the last 20 years, investments in the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief alone have saved more than 25 million lives and were integral to the COVID-19 response in affected countries. This comes from the relatively modest investments from SFOPS global health-related programs at USAID and the State department which accounted for approximately 6 cents on every 100 dollars budgeted for FY23.
- Investments in global health R&D also lead to economic gains in the US and in partner countries. As told in a recent analysis conducted in partnership with Policy Cures Research and GHTC, between 2007 and 2022, \$46 billion in global health R&D investment led to \$102 billion in economic activity and the creation of over 600,000 jobs country-wide. This is not to mention the follow-on effects of the innovations the US invested in during that time period which are projected to generate \$251 billion and counting for the US economy.

Still, millions of people die every year because we do not have the technologies to save them.

The challenge: In 2024, 1.23 million people were killed by tuberculosis (TB), 1.3 million people were newly infected with HIV, and 282 million people were infected with 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. Drug resistance is currently a major threat to malaria control and elimination. More than 1 billion people worldwide are affected by neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), a group of 21 diseases caused by various pathogens. Women and children in low-resource settings are among the most vulnerable population groups.

The United States, as a biomedical research powerhouse, can change history through relatively small public investments.

New medical products are needed to overcome neglected diseases, to beat 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 infections
- A vaccine and cure for HIV/AIDS
- Innovative treatments and easy-to-administer and long-acting prevention tools for malaria.
- Shorter TB treatment regimens and a more effective vaccine.
- Better diagnostics and treatments for neglected tropical diseases.
- 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 market potential.

- Public investments often support product development partnerships (PDPs): not-for-profit organizations that convene government, scientific, private-sector, and community partners to develop new global health technologies.
- Investments in new global health technologies for low-resource settings will naturally benefit rural and frontier communities in the US either directly or through the creation of modular platform technologies.

The US Government's critical role in global health innovation

The US government has provided unparalleled support for the late-stage development of global health technologies through US global health programs for decades. **We urge Congress to reaffirm State's role in research and development in the FY27 process.**

Why it matters: For decades, the U.S. government has been a leading supporter of global health R&D, with USAID alone budgeting roughly \$250 million annually for this work according to its most recent available report. However, the integration of USAID into the State Department resulted in the termination of most R&D-related awards, creating a significant gap in US support for the development of new global health tools.

Congress took an important step to address this gap in FY26 by establishing PTRI and directing the State Department to invest at least \$50 million in global health R&D. The State Department has since indicated its intent to operationalize an Innovation Fund to support this work, alongside bilateral country compacts. Both initiatives, however, remain in early stages of implementation. Initial signals suggest a focus on procurement and scale-up of near-market or market-ready products, particularly through direct partnerships with U.S. companies. While this approach can accelerate near-term impact, it will be important to ensure that investments span the full R&D continuum—from early-stage discovery through clinical development to introduction and scale—to sustain a robust pipeline of new health technologies over time.

Support for the scale-up of proven products is vital and should be encouraged. Yet significant gaps remain in the tools needed to confront persistent and emerging global health challenges — gaps that

are best addressed through investment in earlier stages of research and development. Universities, academic medical centers, and nonprofit product development partnerships have long been essential contributors to this pipeline, advancing affordable, fit-for-purpose solutions designed for low-resource settings. Ensuring these actors remain part of the U.S. global health R&D ecosystem will be critical to maintaining American leadership and delivering lasting health impact.

State now has a mandate to improve global health that supports the development of global health products from early-stage concepts to delivery around the world. With a newly identified R&D directive from Congress:

- State can leverage partnerships with external stakeholders to identify and strategically address innovation gaps, support research and clinical development, and help scale new technologies to communities in need.
- State can use novel financing models, build interagency and multisectoral partnerships, and apply a results-driven, cost-effective approach to maximize the impact of US government funding.
- State is well positioned to help drive late-stage research and scale-up of global health products that offer significant public health benefits but are not supported by other public or private funders.

What's needed: We encourage Congress to include report language that details the role State's new global health programs play in the research, development, and introduction of innovative technologies, as well as its consultative function across agencies, affected communities, and private and non-profit organizations to ensure the most effective use of funds for biomedical product research and development.

Request for reporting on Health-Related Research and Development

At the directive of Congress, USAID submitted an annual report on its health-related research and development investments and programs. **We urge Congress to renew its request for this report for the State Department.**

Why it matters: The report is an important articulation of State's health innovation mission and an essential accountability tool to ensure that State is on track to meet its health R&D goals in alignment with the America First Global Health Strategy and is spending according to congressional directives.

- These reports provide Congress and the global health community with insight into how State is investing in global health research and advancing its health-related research and development strategy. This is an important accountability measure for the Department.

What's needed: We encourage Congress to include report language that **1) requests the report to be publicly posted on State's website, 2) resembles the detail of [Senate Report 116-126](#), replacing USAID with the State Department and 3) includes a readout of how PTRI and the Innovation Fund are operating in a complementary manner.**

This language is critical to ensuring that US investments in global health research are efficient, coordinated, and maximally effective.

We stand ready to work with you to advance US leadership in global health and global health innovation and ask that support for global health R&D not come at the expense of other humanitarian assistance and development accounts.

It is clearer than ever that increases in investment for global health innovation are critical. There is still much that can be done—and must be done—to protect Americans’ health and security. GHTC urges the Committee to continue to direct the State Department to prioritize science, technology, and innovation as core pillars of its global health mission; allocate sufficient resources to support this work; and produce detailed, public annual reports on State’s new health R&D strategy.

Please do not hesitate to contact GHTC's 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

American Society for Microbiology



AVAC



Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations,
U.S.



Drugs for Neglected Diseases *initiative*



**Elizabeth Glaser
Pediatric AIDS Foundation**
Fighting for an AIDS-free generation

Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation



FHI360



Global Antibiotic Research and Development
Partnership



Global Health Technologies Coalition



Georgia Life Sciences



Global Health Council



Translating *science*
into **global** health impact

International AIDS Vaccine Initiative



Impact Global Health



Innovative Vector Control Consortium



Medicines for Malaria Venture



Population Council

TAG

Treatment Action Group

Treatment Action Group



TB Alliance

TB Alliance