

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

March 30, 2017

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

We the undersigned urge Congress to reject devastating funding cuts to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) proposed under the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 "skinny budget," released on March 16, 2017. Of grave concern is the targeted elimination of the Fogarty International Center at NIH. This indiscriminate cut jeopardizes life-saving research required to end devastating global diseases like tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS, as well as malaria, dengue, and Ebola.

The Fogarty Center's central mission is to support training programs and operational research for the next generation of global health scientists, and to foster collaboration between U.S. scientists and their peers abroad. Of particular note is the Fogarty HIV Research Training Program, which builds the multi-disciplinary biomedical, behavioral, and social science research capacity of scientists in the U.S. and abroad in HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention, and care. Since 1988, this program has trained over 2,000 scientists from 100 countries. This program has allowed the U.S. to lead in shaping the global body of knowledge on HIV/AIDS, and support vital research in areas heavily impacted by HIV/AIDS to inform the response globally and in the U.S.

The Fogarty Center is also a leader in funding neglected disease research. For example, the Center has provided \$13.1 million in grant funding to TB research over the last 3 years, ranking it one of the top 25 donors of TB research. The elimination of the Fogarty Center would perpetuate a discouraging downward trend in research funding for neglected diseases like TB.

Though the Fogarty Center's annual budget to achieve such important work is just \$70 million, the cost of eliminating it would be large to the American science sector. The President's FY 18 budget would disrupt over 60 grants on HIV alone, including research focused on the prevention of mother-to-child HIV transmission, HIV epidemiology and surveillance, HIV/TB co-infection, meningitis, and hepatitis C. Fogarty funding for TB research has supported jobs at more than 15 U.S. universities, including the University of Georgia, University of Maryland-Baltimore, Tulane, Baylor, Brown, Johns Hopkins, Boston University, Harvard, University of Minnesota, Berkeley, Cornell, Dartmouth, and Emory. Eliminating Fogarty Center grants would keep American scientists from pursuing vital research to improve the health and welfare of Americans. It would also impede national health security.

Of considerable interest to U.S. national security is the Fogarty Center's Division of International Epidemiology and Population Studies (DIEPS), which conducts research critical to the development and implementation of domestic and U.S. countermeasures for pandemic influenza and potential bioterror agents. Losing DIEPS would hamper our nation's ability to respond to emerging public health threats.

Supporting American science is essential. The Fogarty Center allows the U.S. to be a global leader in the pursuit to end HIV/AIDS, TB, and other diseases through robust science. With public health threats such as Zika, Ebola, and drug-resistant TB, the Fogarty Center strengthens both domestic and global health security. Continuing to cut NIH research funding in any form undermines the prospect of achieving desperately needed breakthroughs in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, and cure for these diseases. We implore Congress to defend against elimination of the Fogarty International Center at the NIH in the President's FY 18 budget proposal and reject any funding cuts associated with supporting scientific research.

Respectfully submitted,

**Organizations:**

Academic Medical Center, University of Amsterdam	Center for Integrated Community Empowerment (CICE)
ACRIA	Children's Mercy Hospital
ACT UP / New York	Chisholm Advisors
Action Secours Ambulance (ASA)	Christ Soldiers Foundation
ADAP Advocacy Association	Consortium of Universities for Global Health
Aeras	CORE Group
AIDS Action Baltimore	Community Access National Network (CANN)
AIDS Foundation of Chicago	Dairy Veterinary Services
AIDS Institute	DC Fights Back!!
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta	Demand Universal Healthcare (DUH)
AIDS Resource	Desmond Tutu TB Center, Stellenbosch University
AIDS Treatment Activist Coalition	Drug Resistant Tuberculosis Scale Up Treatment Action Team
AIDS United	Drugs for Neglected Diseases initiative - North America
Albert Einstein College of Medicine	Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
American Academy of HIV Medicine	Emory University
American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene	Emory University School of Medicine and Rollins School of Public Health
American Thoracic Society	EMPOWER INDIA
Amida Care	Family Clinical Research Unit; Stellenbosch University
Amsterdam Institute for Global Health and Development	First Comes Love Photo
Asia Catalyst	Duke University School of Medicine
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care	Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center
Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health	Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB, and Malaria
AVAC	Global Advocates for AIDS, TB & Malaria GAATM (BCARE END TB Initiative)
Baylor College of Medicine	Global Health Technologies Coalition (GHTC)
Baylor College of Medicine-Children's Foundation Malawi	Harvard University
BCARE USA INC - BCARE INTERNATIONAL	Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
Becton Dickinson	Health Education Network
BHR: Science & Technology	Health GAP
BJGMC-JHU Fogarty HIV-TB Training Program	Helping Improve Planning Program Operations and Surveillance
Cascade AIDS Project	
Center for Innovation in Global Health at Stanford University	

Hepc Alliance  
HIPPOS Inc  
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance  
HIV Medicine Association  
Housing Works, Inc.  
Howard Brown Health  
Infectious Disease in Davidson  
Infectious Diseases Society of America  
International AIDS Society  
International AIDS Vaccine Initiative  
International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung  
Disease  
International Vaccine Institute  
ITEACH (Integration of TB in Education & Care  
for HIV/AIDS)  
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health  
Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security  
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine  
Johns Hopkins University  
Joy Garnett Studio  
Kaiser Permanente  
Keranetics  
La Frontera University  
Latinos Salud  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Massachusetts General Hospital  
Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical  
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MMV  
National TB program- MOH Kenya  
National Tuberculosis Controllers Association  
New Jersey Association on Correction  
NMAC  
Population Council  
Population health innovations INC  
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San Antonio infectious disease consultants  
Shelter Resources, Inc. d.b.a. Belle Reve  
Sodzo International  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)  
South Main Baptist Church  
Stellenbosch University  
Stop TB Partnership  
Thrive Alabama  
TB Alliance  
TB Proof  
Treatment Access Expansion Project (TAEP)  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Education Network  
Tuberculosis Trial Consortium, CDC  
Tufts University, School of Medicine  
UCSF, Savic Laboratory  
UCHAPS: Urban Coalition for HIV/AIDS  
Prevention Service  
UHAP / Upstate Hepatitis Awareness Project  
UNC Institute for Global Health and Infectious  
Diseases  
UNC Project Malawi  
Unity Fellowship Church  
Universidad de Chile  
Universidad de La Frontera  
University of Cape Town  
University of Cape Town and UCLA  
University of Chile  
University of Malaya  
University of Manitoba  
University of Massachusetts Medical School  
University of North Carolina (UNC) Project  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
University of North Carolina Research Project  
Lilongwe Malawi  
University of Oklahoma  
University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine  
University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology  
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Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network  
Zephyr LTNP Foundation, Inc.

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