

Chairman Patrick Leahy  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Vice Chairman Richard Shelby  
U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Room S-128, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Chairwoman Rosa DeLauro  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on  
Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Kay Granger  
U.S. House of Representatives Committee on  
Appropriations  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

September 10, 2021

Dear Chairman Leahy and Chairwoman DeLauro,

We are writing to request that Congress act decisively to provide urgently needed funding to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), both for CEPI's critical role in global COVID-19 response and ongoing efforts to defend against emerging epidemic and pandemic threats.

Over the past three years, Congress has repeatedly provided funding and included direction for support of CEPI through Appropriations Committee report language, a statutory directive, and a series of letters, direct communications with Senior Administration Officials in hearings, and through questions submitted for response. Most recently, Congress provided the Executive Branch \$11.6 billion for the global response to COVID-19 as a part of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) legislation, including statutory language specifying "a contribution to a multilateral vaccine development partnership to support epidemic preparedness."

To date, the Executive Branch has provided no contributions to CEPI in response to these directions. USAID's draft implementation plan for deployment of ARP funds is described as "comprehensive," yet does not include a contribution to CEPI as directed in law. We are concerned that if support for CEPI is not part of a comprehensive framework, then it is being viewed as an alarmingly low priority. We are seeking US investment beyond the modest, pre-pandemic agreement between USAID and CEPI for \$4 million each year for five years. That agreement was initiated by the past Administration and through use of already appropriated and constrained base global health security funds.

Due to significant delays in allocating Congressionally-directed funding, we urge Congress to move decisively and include a directive for the Executive Branch in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations legislation to provide a contribution to CEPI of a set amount and by a specific date or milestone following enactment. Such a directive and the associated funding should be

included in statutory language if possible, and in either an FY22 appropriations bill, as an anomaly to a Continuing Resolution, or both.

The urgency of CEPI's contribution to pandemic response has not diminished with the advent of effective COVID-19 vaccines. By advancing enabling sciences to serve all vaccine developers globally, CEPI is helping develop the next wave of effective COVID-19 vaccines, including "variant-proof" ones, researching the use of partial doses and "mix and match" regimens to enhance immune response, and conducting clinical trials to understand how vaccines affect key populations such as pregnant women and immunocompromised patients. CEPI is also pursuing the development of universal coronavirus vaccines to protect against COVID-19, SARS, MERS, and future emerging coronaviruses and supporting technology transfers required to scale up global manufacturing.

While these focus areas are essential to ending the current pandemic and protecting against future pandemics, they are not yet missions undertaken directly by the U.S. Government. Particularly in times of crisis—when high income countries have been known to care first for themselves—CEPI is positioned to support vaccine development and equitable access for the rest of the world. CEPI's work on COVID-19 and emerging pandemic threats is complementary to the U.S. Government's own work and priorities, not redundant or in competition.

We recognize the many pressing concerns that require investment. Yet, in the face of the alarming spread of the Delta variant, nothing is more urgent now to end this pandemic than to vaccinate as many people globally as possible while advancing critical research needed to combat variants, which will deny reservoirs for additional genetic changes to the virus. The work of CEPI is an essential component of a successful strategy against the pandemic and remains an urgent priority. We ask that Congress act decisively to provide CEPI with the resources it needs without delay.

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  
Carolyn Reynolds, Co-Founder, Pandemic Action Network  
Marian W. Wentworth, President & CEO, Management Sciences for Health

cc:

Chairman Gregory Meeks, Chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Ranking Member Michael McCaul, Ranking Member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee  
Chairman Robert Menendez, Chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee  
Ranking Member Jim Risch, Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee