

May 22, 2006

Dear Representative:

We urge you to oppose legislation that would pour nearly a billion dollars—with no strings attached— into an organization that is diametrically opposed to President Bush’s AIDS prevention policy.

That’s what would happen if the currently pending SA 3052 is passed by the U.S. House.

This legislation would allocate \$866 million—well above the more reasonable \$300 million the President Bush has requested— to The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This is an extravagant, over-the-top expenditure. This vast and unreasonable expansion of spending would go to support needle exchange programs, legalization of prostitution, and, unbelievably, support for George Soros’ organizations.

Considering the enormous budget deficit, it makes no sense to expand a give-away program that supports policies in direct contradiction to the Administration’s priorities—programs that would offend the common sense of the majority of Americans. No wonder so many taxpayers view the budget approval process with such suspicion and doubt!

While we applaud Congress for seeking to stop the spread of disease around the world, we recommend a more responsible way to use taxpayer money: limit allocations to The Global Fund to President Bush’s request of \$300 million. Also, direct any amount given to The Global Fund to be spent primarily on fighting tuberculosis and malaria. We also propose that U.S. funding for HIV/AIDS be funneled primarily through a government-controlled program like PEPFAR, rather than split between PEPFAR and The Global Fund (which has no accountability to the United States).

We recommend this approach for the following reasons:

1. LACK OF TRANSPARENCY AND CONTROL

No one knows exactly what The Global Fund does with its money—because it doesn’t publicly reveal all of its sub grantees and how much money they receive.

Even *The Lancet*, one of the world’s most respected scientific journals, has criticized The Global Fund for its lack of accountability. “It is clear ... that the public, who have provided almost all the money so far, will not be able to see how it is to be spent,” stated *The Lancet* in 2002, when the Fund was founded.

Additionally, the U.S. government has only one seat on the 24 member Board of Governors, even though it gives at least 1/3 of all Global Fund money. While far from perfect, the PEPFAR program is much more transparent, and the U.S. government has complete control over the PEPFAR programs and grantees.

2. THE GLOBAL FUND FINANCES MANY GROUPS WHICH PROMOTE DRUG LEGALIZATION, NEEDLE EXCHANGE, ABORTION AND PROSTITUTION

In 2004, newly elected Global Fund board member Asia Russell stated, “The Global Fund goes against what this administration’s global AIDS policies are. It’s everything the Bush Administration is not.”

Faith-based groups are not widely supported as a percentage of grants awarded or country-coordinating mechanism (CCM) membership. Rather, the organization is friendly to groups that support drug legalization, needle exchange, prostitution, and abortion. For example, George Soros’ own website states that The Global Fund grant to his Open Health Institute in Russia supports 23 needle exchange programs. It makes no sense for Congress to prohibit the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs and then turn around and give massive additional funding to the Global Fund to support those very same programs.

More evidence of The Global Fund’s bias toward promotion of prostitution and drug use is documented in its grant review process: Page 58 of the AIDSPAN Guide to Round 6 Applications to the Global Fund available at <http://www.aidspace.org/gfo/docs/aidspace-round-6-applying-guide-en.pdf> shows that the technical review panel downgraded or sent back for revision proposals that did not support The Global Fund’s radical social agenda. One comment by the panel cited that “there is no explanation of how sex workers, injecting drug users, men who have sex with men and prisoners will be protected against discrimination, legal action and coercive HIV testing.” These are code words for advocacy campaigns to repeal or stop enforcing laws against prostitution and illegal drugs.

3. FUNDING TO SOROS’ ENTITIES

The major group lobbying for additional Global Fund dollars is DATA. As you can see from the attached news article and Global Business Coalition’s press release, George Soros is closely linked to DATA.

While George Soros has not funneled any of his billions into The Global Fund, he has a powerful voice in how Global Fund decisions are made and has been a recipient of Global Fund dollars.

Soros controls a global network of NGOs that Tina Rosenberg, an editorial writer for *The New York Times*, has called his private State Department. He uses this network to campaign for his personal agenda, which includes abortion, euthanasia, legalized drugs and other radical causes. The Global Fund has become a major contributor to the Soros network. One of its earliest actions was to award an \$88 million grant to Soros' Open Health Institute in Russia. Other parts of Soros' private State Department receive Global Fund subgrants in Ukraine, Romania, Moldova, the Republic of Georgia, and in other countries.

4. LACK OF SUBSTANTIAL PRIVATE SECTOR FUNDING

The United States was never intended to carry the lion's share of The Global Fund's financial burdens.

The Global Fund was established in 2002 as an experiment. While many think of it as a UN agency, it was set up as a Swiss corporation. It has private sector board members because proponents claimed it would receive very substantial private sector funding from foundations, corporations and individuals.

The Gates Foundation did provide \$50 million a year for a few years, but after 2004 it did not provide any more funding for The Global Fund. Other than the Gates Foundation, The Global Fund has only received \$7 million from the private sector since its founding.

5. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Recently, the Fund elected Asia Russell to its 2007 Board of Directors. Ms. Russell was one of the demonstrators at the 2004 Republican National Convention. She served as spokeswoman for the group who tried to strip naked at the convention as a protest against Bush administration policies. According to Ms. Russell, they were there to bring "the naked truth to the [convention] floor." She was also one of the demonstrators who showed up outside the home of Senator Arlen Specter on November 30, 2004, where she referred to U.S. abstinence prevention strategies as "quack prevention." She was one of the demonstrators who stormed the stage and shouted down HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson at the International AIDS Conference in 2004. A 30-year-old described by the press as having dropped out of school to devote her life to AIDS protests, Ms. Russell has no medical qualifications, no experience in working in developing countries, no program management experience, and no financial management experience. The fact that The Fund would elect a woman with zero qualifications to its Board sends a clear message that this is not a serious health care organization but, rather, a group dedicated to pursuing a social agenda opposed to US policy.

6. THE GLOBAL FUND PROMOTES CONDOM SOCIAL MARKETING TO THE NEAR EXCLUSION OF ABSTINENCE AND FAITHFULNESS.

Few Global Fund grantees support abstinence and faithfulness—despite a 2003 UNAIDS report that concluded there is no evidence that condom-use alone has resulted in lower HIV infection rates in a general population, especially in sub-Saharan Africa. By contrast, the official prevention program of PEPFAR is ABC: Abstinence, Be Faithful, and Condoms (for those who cannot be abstinent or faithful, such as prostitutes).

7. MEETING LOCATIONS AND COSTS

Travel is often first class and meetings are held in very expensive settings.

For example, the 2002 meeting was held at the Concorde in Paris—one of the plushiest hotels in one of the most costly cities in the world!

In 2004, the Fund, which has access to the UN's meeting facilities in Geneva, elected to hold its meeting in Tanzania. As part of its activities, the Fund planned a "Global Fund Summit" at the top of Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Fund solicited \$100,000 from private sources to pay for the climb up Mt. Kilimanjaro. The Fund also paid for 29 of its employees from Geneva to fly to Kilimanjaro to provide support for the Board meeting.

This lifestyle sets a poor example for The Global Fund grantees and misdirects funds that would otherwise be available for AIDS prevention and treatment.

8. LACK OF CAPACITY IN AFRICA

The Global Fund is giving huge sums of money to inexperienced countries. Then The Fund expects those countries to ramp up capacity overnight without adequate controls, supervision, technical assistance or added medical manpower support. In comparison, the President's emergency plan does just the opposite. U.S. personnel working on the ground in African countries are helping to build local capacity through PEPFAR.

9. MISALLOCATION OF FUNDING PRIORITIES

The Global Fund provides AIDS funding to many industrialized nations. It also provides grants to governments in places like Algeria, where the HIV prevalence rate is less than 0.1% and where the country is awash in oil money. The AIDS epidemic

is geographically concentrated, so the funds need to be focused on those countries where the need is the greatest—this is exactly what the PEPFAR program does.

10. INCREASING THE DEFICIT

With the deficit spending in Congress reaching record amounts, we do not think it is time to exceed the President's request for \$300 million by taking on another \$566 million. It is a shameful waste of taxpayer funds.

SUMMARY

We remain committed to the fight against global AIDS. However, if there is any increase in funding for these programs it should go to the PEPFAR program and not to finance an entity with scant transparency and little accountability—one that aligns itself to contractors blatantly opposed to U.S. policy.

**Focus on the Family Action, James C. Dobson, Ph.D. Chairman and Founder
Institute for Youth Development, Shepherd Smith, President
Raymond Ruddy**

American Family Association: Donald E. Wildmon, Founder and Chairman

American Values: Gary Bauer, President

A Woman's Concern: Mark Conrad, President

Carenet: Kurt Entsminger, President

Catholic Citizenship: Larry Cirignano, Executive Director

Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute: Austin Ruse, President

Center for Reclaiming America: Dr. Gary Cass, Executive Director

Citizens for Community Values: Phil Burress, President

Coalition of African American Pastors: Reverend William Owens, President

Concerned Women for America: Wendy Wright, President

Faith2Action: Janet Folger, President

Family Research Council: Tony Perkins, President

Fidelis, Joseph J. Cella: President

Florida Family Action: John Stemberger, President & General Counsel

Grassfire: Steve Elliott, President

Healthy Futures: Rebecca Ray, MPH, Program Director

Heartbeat International: Peggy Hartshorn, Ph.D., President

Heartbeat International NFL Cities program: John Ensor, Program Director

Heritage Community Services: Dick Pruet, President

International Right to Life Federation: J.C. Willke, MD, President

Life Issues Institute: Bradley Mattes, Executive Director

Massachusetts Family Institute: Kristian M. Mineau, President

Medical Institute for Sexual Health: Gary L. Rose, M.D., President & CEO

National Abstinence Clearinghouse: Leslee Unruh, President
New Life Worship Center: Steve Boyce, President
Sanctity of Life Foundation: Joe Brinck, President
Traditional Values Coalition: Andrea Lafferty, Executive Director
Vision America: Rick Scarborough, President