

**BARBARA LEE**  
9TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON  
APPROPRIATIONS  
Subcommittee on  
Labor, Health and Human Services,  
Education, and Related Agencies  
Subcommittee on  
Financial Services and General Government



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, D.C. 20515-0509**

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President Barack Obama  
The White House  
Washington, D.C., 20005

October 13, 2011

Dear President Obama:

We are at a momentous time in the fight to end the global AIDS epidemic. Now more than ever, we need your leadership for a renewed global effort to end the worst epidemic of our time.

In recent months, dramatic scientific breakthroughs and new approaches for reversing the epidemic, call for an emphasis on expanding access to HIV treatment, and supporting high quality, appropriate and effective, prevention and care initiatives that are critical to contain and eventually defeat HIV/AIDS. With this tremendous momentum on our side, I urge you to announce a new effort to end AIDS, this World AIDS Day, considering the following initiatives:

- Direct the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Office of U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, to announce a new goal of treating 6 million people by 2013 through PEPFAR;
- Direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, to announce a new initiative to expand HIV prevention, care and treatment activities in U.S. jurisdictions with rising HIV incidence and growing AIDS Drug Assistance Programs waiting lists, in advance of Affordable Care Act provisions starting in 2014; and
- Direct the Attorney General, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Secretary of Defense to review federal and state laws, policies, regulations, and judicial proceedings that involve criminal cases against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Domestically, the first-ever National HIV/AIDS Strategy provides a comprehensive, outcomes-oriented roadmap for reducing HIV infections, increasing access to care, and addressing health disparities. In addition, implementing the Affordable Care Act will expand critically needed HIV care, treatment and prevention services for many communities in our country.

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U.S. foreign assistance, including PEPFAR, along with U.S. contributions to the Global Fund, are reducing disease burden in low- and middle-income countries, and these programs have important national security and diplomatic elements. Moreover, groundbreaking U.S.-funded research has changed our understanding of preventing HIV and created new ways to battle the HIV/AIDS epidemic —we now know that treating AIDS not only saves the life of the person living with HIV, but also has a powerful HIV prevention impact as well.

Critical in these efforts, is a commitment to protect your budget requests for PEPFAR, the multi-year Global Fund pledge, as well as vital programs that comprise the social safety net for those living with and affected by HIV and AIDS in the U.S., namely Medicare, Medicaid, and the AIDS Drug Assistance Programs.

Mr. President, with the return of the International AIDS Conference to the United States in July 2012, you have an opportunity to transform the international response to this devastating epidemic, and making the end of AIDS the legacy of our generation.

I stand ready to support you in these efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Lee".

**BARBARA LEE**  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, U.S. Department of State  
The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
The Honorable Leon Panetta, U.S. Department of Defense  
The Honorable Eric Holder, Attorney General of the United States  
Jeffrey Crowley, Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy  
Ambassador Eric Goosby, U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator