Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 7, 2005

The Honorable Julie Gerberding
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Dr. Gerberding:

On November 27, 2004, the *Lancet* published a statement entitled "The Time Has Come for Common Ground on Preventing Sexual Transmission of HIV."[1] Signed by more than 100 religious, political, health and scientific leaders from across the developed and developing world, this statement called for an end to "polarizing debate" and urged the international community "to unite around an inclusive evidence-based approach to slow the spread of sexually transmitted HIV." We are writing to ask whether you support this statement.

The statement describes key elements of successful HIV prevention. These include:

1. Ensuring prevention activities are grounded in the science of epidemiology, supported at the local level, and respectful of human rights;

2. Promoting abstinence among those young people who are not yet sexually active, encouraging mutual monogamy among sexually active adults, and helping individuals who engage in high-risk activities to stop;

3. Encouraging correct and consistent condom use among individuals who are engaging in high-risk activities and those who are sexually active with a partner whose HIV status is unknown;[2]

4. Expanding prevention programs for young people both in and out of school, supporting parents "in communicating their values and expectations about sexual behavior"; and

5. Employing community-based approaches that involve religious organizations, women's and men's organizations, care groups, youth organizations, health workers, local media, and traditional and governmental leadership.

The statement also notes that expanding access to services for testing, counseling and treatment of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, preventing mother-to-child transmission, and enhancing access to family planning services are all essential in order to achieve the prevention, care and treatment objectives of the President's Emergency Plan for

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[1]D. Halperin et al., *The Time Has Come for Common Ground in Preventing Sexual Transmission of HIV*, *Lancet*, 913–14 (Nov. 27, 2004).

[2]The statement endorses the "ABC model" of HIV prevention, which refers to abstinence, be faithful, and condom use. The statement supports access for all individuals to information about these three elements, while not requiring any single organization to promote all three.

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AIDS and other global initiatives. It endorses continuing review of potential interventions such as microbicides, new antibiotic treatments, and vaccines.

The statement was written by several of the world's leading HIV experts, and endorsed by more than 100 leaders in the fight against AIDS from 36 countries across a range of disciplines. Notable endorsers include:

- Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni,
- Archbishop Desmond Tutu of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa,
- UN Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa Stephen Lewis,
- HIV/AIDS Director at the World Health Organization Jim Kim

The statement has also been endorsed by representatives from the World Bank; the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria; and the heads of HIV/AIDS programs in several countries including Ethiopia, India, Jamaica, and Uganda. Leaders and representatives from major faith- and community-based nongovernmental organizations from the United States and around the world also back the statement.

Given the broad international and domestic support for the *Lancet* statement and the importance of collaboration in AIDS prevention efforts worldwide, we would like to know whether you, as a key leader in this administration in combating HIV/AIDS, support this statement.

We would appreciate a response by January 24, 2005.

Sincerely,

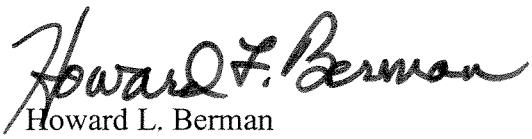
Henry A. Waxman
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives

Fortney Pete Stark
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives

Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Foreign Operations,
Export Financing and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Sherrod Brown
Ranking Minority Member
Subcommittee on Health
Committee on Energy and
Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

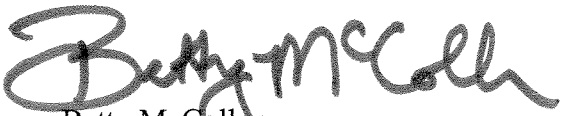
Barbara Lee
Chair
Global AIDS Initiative
Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives



Howard L. Berman
Member of Congress

Jesse L. Jackson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Lois Capps
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator