



Voices from the Field

The following quotations represent a broad spectrum of laboratory professionals who have sought Congressional help in supporting the President's PEPFAR initiative.

Nebraska

“I have participated in the delivery of continuing education to laboratory professionals in Tanzania and Rwanda. PEPFAR has provided wonderful opportunities for these individuals to upgrade the quality of testing available in their country to support the use of AIDS therapies for AIDS patients in their country. And the project has become even more far reaching than that. These laboratory professionals now see the opportunity to provide quality laboratory and health care services to all individuals in their countries. PEPFAR is one positive face of the United States in the world. Many of the individuals I have worked with see it as Africa finally being recognized by the rest of the world and the US giving them the help to establish their own programs to provide adequate health care. There is still so much to be done and it will need the funding provided in this bill. I urge you to support this legislation.”

New York

“HIV/AIDS and its associated secondary diseases are a critical health and economic problem globally. The crisis is also severely impacting the children being left orphans as a result, thereby affecting the ability of affected countries to recover in the future.”

Oklahoma

“As a training consultant with PEPFAR in sub-Saharan Africa, I have seen lives saved and hope reborn. Please support the continuation of PEPFAR funding. I have worked in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya, Nigeria and Lesotho and have trained nearly 500 laboratory workers who can now monitor patients on antiretroviral treatment (ART) and do it with reliable, accurate laboratory results.”

Pennsylvania

“As a microbiologist, I know only too well how non-control of disease will lead to antibiotic and antiviral resistance in bacteria and viruses. We are experiencing this in the United States right now with methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA), vancomycin-resistant *Enterococci* (VRE), and multiple resistant *Acinetobacter*. Left unchecked, diseases seen in other parts of the world will eventually make their way to the US. By supporting this initiative, S.2731, we can help to make a difference throughout the world as well as in our own country.”

Rhode Island

“With more than 30 years of experience as a Clinical Microbiologist at Our Lady of Fatima Hospital, I decided to take my fight against infectious disease global. I have participated in two laboratory training and consultation trips to Zambia in the last year and plan to return again in the summer. The need to improve the health care delivery system in Africa is critical and the appreciation of the native laboratorians who are fighting the battle against HIV/AIDS and TB with limited resources is immense. Please vote favorably on S. 2731.”

Wisconsin

“I saw the effects of the PEPFAR funding first hand when I visited Uganda during the summer of 2007. This initiative has helped to fund necessary clinics and laboratories in areas where there were none previously. This has drastically impacted the way patients are treated and how their long-term diseases, such as HIV, are monitored. PEPFAR funding is critical for the development and health care needs of developing countries and is essential for progress to be made in defeating these diseases. If the PEPFAR funding is cut and no other funding replaces it, global health initiatives regress right back to square one.”