



American Society for  
**Clinical Pathology®**  
Washington Office  
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# United States Global Leadership against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Reauthorization Act of 2008

## Support the PEPFAR Reauthorization Act of 2008

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### *Congressional Action Requested:*

- Reauthorize the Global Leadership against HIV/AIDS, TB and Malaria Act of 2008; and
- Authorize funding of \$50 billion over the period FY 2009 to 2013.

### *What is the Reauthorization Act of 2008?*

In 2003, the U.S. Federal Government authorized the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR/Emergency Plan). The Reauthorization Act of 2008 seeks to boost funding over the next five years in the areas of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria. We congratulate the House of Representatives for passing H.R. 5501 and urge the Senate to pass S. 2731, which link AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria programs to broader health and development programs.

### *Why is U.S. Federal support and commitment needed to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria?*

The Emergency Plan, authorized in 2003, is the largest commitment ever by any nation for an international health initiative dedicated to a single disease — a five-year, \$15 billion, multifaceted approach to combating infectious diseases around the world. Continued support and funding authorization by the U.S. government will allow health officials throughout the world to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, by implementing integrated prevention, diagnostic and treatment programs.

### *What impact do laboratory professionals have under PEPFAR?*

Accurate, reliable, and timely clinical laboratory testing is an essential component to effective disease management. Laboratory data are essential for clinicians to accurately assess the status of patients' health, make accurate diagnoses, formulate treatment plans, and subsequently monitor the effects of treatment. The clinician must be able to trust the test results from the laboratory in

order to use them for clinical diagnosis and treatment. Improving the clinical laboratory infrastructure is critical to enhance the health care delivery system.

***Can the reauthorization of PEPFAR make a difference?***

Yes. Recent PEPFAR data indicates that more than 1.4 million men, women, and children have received life-saving antiretroviral therapy. The effectiveness of this therapy depends upon access to quality laboratory services. Similarly, the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis and malaria relies on access to skilled laboratory professionals with appropriate resources and technology.

***We urge your support of the reauthorization of PEPFAR to reduce the global burden of HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria.***