

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 1, 2008

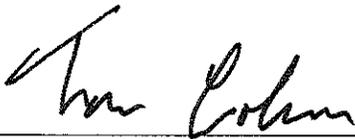
Honorable Mitch McConnell, Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator McConnell,

Thank you for protecting our rights, pursuant to our request of March 31st, with regard to S. 2731 and H.R. 5501, the House-passed and Senate Committee-passed bills to reauthorize the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Most of the concerns we laid out in that letter have been addressed to our satisfaction. We appreciate the efforts of the bill sponsors to negotiate in good faith to resolve our major policy differences.

While we remain concerned about the high funding authorization level in the bill, we are pleased with the other significant improvements, especially the restoration of a requirement that the majority of HIV/AIDS funding be spent on life-saving medical treatment for people who would otherwise be facing an AIDS death sentence. In light of this and other improvements, we withdraw our objection to a motion to proceed to S. 2731, as amended by the Biden-Lugar substitute agreed to on June 26th, 2008, or to replace the current text of H.R. 5501 with that substitute and proceed to the bill under the House number.

Sincerely,



Tom Coburn, MD, U.S. Senator



Richard Burr, U.S. Senator