



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

www.state.gov

February 9, 2005

Dear Representative Waxman:

This is in response to your letters of January 7th to USAID Administrator, Andrew Natsios; Director of HHS/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Julie Gerberding; Director of HHS/NIH/National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, Dr. Anthony Fauci, and me regarding an article published in *The Lancet* relating to prevention of sexual transmission of HIV. We welcome your continuing interest in and support for our efforts to combat the global HIV/AIDS pandemic.

As you state in your letter, the article called for an end to “polarizing debate” and urged the international community to unite on the important effort to slow the spread of sexually transmitted HIV. We applaud this effort to unite the international community in the fight against the global HIV/AIDS pandemic and address a complex issue. As a matter of fact, in July of 2004, at the International AIDS Conference in Bangkok, I stated, “HIV/AIDS is the real enemy. The denial, stigma, and complacency that fuel HIV/AIDS – these too are real enemies. It is morally imperative that we direct our energies at these enemies, not at one another.”

As you know, in February of last year, the Office of the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator released the U.S. Five-Year Global HIV/AIDS Strategy which laid out the prevention, treatment and care strategies for the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. The strategy stated:

“The President’s Emergency Plan is specifically designed to address the challenges of achieving the goal of preventing 7 million new HIV infections. In its use of evidence-based prevention programs such as the “ABC” – Abstinence, Be faithful, and as appropriate, correct and consistent use of Condoms – approach, proven successful in Uganda,

The Honorable
Henry A. Waxman,
House of Representatives.

Zambia, Senegal, and elsewhere, the Emergency Plan targets prevention funds to methodologies that are effective in helping people avoid behaviors that place them at risk of contracting HIV. Identified best practices such as increased testing; appropriately tailored interventions for specific populations including women, men, and high-risk groups; the involvement of people living with AIDS, parents, and leaders from all sectors of society; and stigma reduction will be aggressively promoted to achieve real results in reducing the number of new infections. At the same time, the Emergency Plan provides that interventions must strengthen existing indigenous responses to the culture, and build on community structures that influence social and community norms in order to reduce risk behaviors.”

The article you cited, signed by a significant number of scientists and advocates engaged in the fight against Global HIV/AIDS, certainly represents a tremendous effort to end some of the divisiveness that imperils the effectiveness of our common fight, **and is consistent with our previously published policy** which underscores the importance of evidence-based prevention strategies and the importance of the ABC approach to prevention, expands services, provides services to prevent mother-to-child transmission, and endorses research for additional interventions such as microbicides, antibiotic treatment, and vaccines. For further information on our prevention strategies, you may access the President’s five-year strategy at <http://www.state.gov/s/gac/r1/or/c11652.htm>.

Again, thank you for your continuing interest in the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ambassador Randall L. Tobias
U. S. Global AIDS Coordinator

CC: Andrew Natsios
Julie Gerberding
Dr. Anthony Fauci