

Advocacy talking points: The global AIDS crisis

Use these message guidelines to:

- ❖ Craft your own message to send to your elected official;
 - ❖ Serve as an outline for conversations with congressional staff during an office visit;
 - ❖ Guide your comments at speaking engagements or other educational or awareness-raising functions.
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- **The AIDS pandemic is the one of the most devastating humanitarian disasters of our time,** leaving a generation of children in jeopardy. Nearly 33 million people are living with HIV and AIDS, of which 2 million are children under the age of 15. An estimated 15 million children under age 18 have been orphaned due to AIDS and the number is rising. About 11.6 million of these children live in sub-Saharan Africa.
 - **AIDS destabilizes families and entire societies, leaving children without the care and support necessary to grow up, survive, and thrive.** Virtually every child and family is suffering in communities hit hard by HIV and AIDS. Adults in their prime productive years are dying. Orphans and widows are grieving and struggling to survive. Grandparents and extended family members courageously take in orphaned children, but they need help to meet the children's daily needs.
 - **The AIDS pandemic also seriously affects the livelihoods of millions of people outside of Africa.** An estimated 2.5 million people are living with HIV in India, with millions more adults and children made vulnerable by it. HIV prevalence also continues to increase in places like East and Central Asia, Vietnam, and Papua New Guinea.
 - **Thank you for passing the bipartisan Global AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Bill.** This historic bill will bring relief to millions of people suffering from and affected by these diseases.
 - **The United States has made significant contributions to the fight against global AIDS. In order to continue exercising leadership on this issue, the United States must:**
 1. Fully fund the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief over the next five years by providing at least \$7 billion in fiscal year 2009, in addition to resources for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria;
 2. Commit to setting aside 10 percent of AIDS funding for orphans and vulnerable children;
 3. Given the deadly synergy between HIV and AIDS and malaria, fulfill the commitment to providing \$48 billion over the next five years HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases.

To learn more about advocacy for AIDS-affected children and take action on this issue, visit www.seekjustice.org.

Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed.

- Psalms 82:3-4 (NIV)