

June 1, 2009

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Abigail Student (your name)
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The Honorable Senator Ben Cardin
United States Senate
Washington D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator Cardin:

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I applaud recent promises to increase funding of global AIDS programs, but I believe this funding is still not enough. President Bush is asking Congress to double U.S. foreign assistance for AIDS programs to \$30 billion. This is a great step forward. Please support this increase in funds and encourage your colleagues in the Senate to increase it even more.

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According to the United Nations AIDS program and the World Health Organization (UN-AIDS/WHO), in November of 2006, an estimated 39.5 million people had AIDS in the world. Additionally, according to Representative Tom Lantos, who was quoted on May 30 in the Washington Post, "This scourge has already stolen nearly 30 million lives — more than any war in human history with the exception of World War II." Although treatment for AIDS has helped prolong lives and prevent some new infections, the epidemic continues to need our vital attention.

Countries in sub-Saharan Africa have the highest rates of AIDS, averaging 6.1 percent of the adult population, with Swaziland debilitated by a record 33 percent of the adult population with AIDS. (USAID/WHO)

The United States has a responsibility to fund humanitarian efforts to treat and prevent AIDS throughout the world. Please ensure that the U.S. funds global AIDS programs to the greatest extent possible.

Sincerely,

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Abigail Student (your signature)

Abigail Student

