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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1903

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COAST GUARD SUBCOMMITTEE

FINANCE

INTELLIGENCE

RANKING MEMBER, SMALL BUSINESS

May 8, 2009

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Chairman  
State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
122 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Judd Gregg  
Ranking Member  
State, Foreign Operations Subcommittee  
142 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Gregg:

We are respectfully writing to request that report language be included in the FY2010 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill on behalf of three programs and organizations.

The American University in Kosovo is a fully functioning university awarding two year and four year degrees with current enrollment of about 465 students. To date, development of the University has been primarily through tuition and local Kosovar contributions. In the near future, Kosovo may become an independent state, however, there is an enormous lack of personnel with the modern administrative and technical skills required to manage the public services that can transform Kosovo into a prosperous and democratic state. The American University in Kosovo, in partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology, is working with the U.S. Department of State to establish the U.S. School of Public Service. The U.S. School of Public Service would educate Kosovo's future public servants by providing a curriculum targeted to the most pressing public infrastructure and public administration challenges that face Kosovo. Report language indicating Congress' belief in the value of this project would help ensure that it becomes a reality.

The following report language is respectfully requested on behalf of the American University in Kosovo for the FY2010 appropriations bill:

*"The Committee continues to support programs that help Kosovo to develop the human and institutional resources needed for self-government, particularly programs that help meet the pressing need for the modern administrative and technical skills required to transform Kosovo into a prosperous and democratic state. The Committee encourages the Department of State to consider a proposal to enhance the capacity and make sustainable the School of Public Service at the American University in Kosovo to enable it to better train Kosovars to build and manage their own public services and infrastructure."*

The stability of Kosovo is a priority issue for the U.S. American University in Kosovo and the State Department have developed a strong working relationship in recent

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years and the University believes that the report language would solidify that relationship and facilitate good policy decisions relating to U.S. funding in Kosovo.

Next, Seeds of Peace is a nonprofit, nonpolitical organization dedicated to empowering young people from regions of conflict with the leadership skills required to advance reconciliation. Since its inception in 1993, Seeds of Peace has grown from a summer camp hosting 46 Israeli, Palestinian, and Egyptian Seeds, into a year-round, multi-faceted leadership development and coexistence program that has graduated nearly 4,000 young leaders from 22 countries worldwide.

While Seeds of Peace has broadened its reach to youth from regions of conflict around the globe, the Middle East remains its primary focus. The organization maintains regional offices in Tel Aviv and Ramallah and implements a full schedule of activities throughout the Middle East and South Asia. Every summer for the past sixteen years, Seeds of Peace, headquartered in New York City, has brought American, Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian, and, more recently, Indian, Pakistani, and Afghan teenagers together to its International Camp in Maine with the goal of dispelling fear, hatred, and misunderstanding, and to foster a new generation of leadership.

The following report language is respectfully requested on behalf of Seeds of Peace for the FY2010 appropriations bill:

*"The Committee recognizes the importance of conflict resolution and reconciliation programs as a tool for creating a climate of peace in regions of conflict. The Committee is recommending support for reconciliation programs and activities which bring together individuals of different ethnic, religious, and political backgrounds from areas of civil conflict and war. Funding should be made available through an established process for organizations that provide such programming, including Seeds of Peace. The Committee recommends the Department of State actively consider proposals submitted by Seeds of Peace."*

Lastly, the International Partnership for Microbicides (IPM) is a non-profit public-private partnership that received funds from 12 governments to develop a topical microbicide for HIV prevention. Funds have been included in the State, Foreign Operations bills for about a decade to enable USAID to engage in research on methods of preventing the spread of HIV. Microbicides are a promising technology that is supported by USAID. Encouraging results from a recent NIH Microbicide Trials Network safety and effectiveness study of the microbicide candidate PRO2000 showed that the product was 30 percent more effective than any other arm of the study in preventing HIV. While data from this study are not definitive and results from additional trials are needed to confirm these findings, this important study supports the concept that a microbicide could prevent HIV infection.

Women and girls are at the epicenter of the HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide, yet there is a desperate need for prevention options they can initiate to avoid infection. Biology and culture combine to put women at greater risk of contracting HIV than men,

especially in developing countries. Marriage is no protection; in fact, it can increase a woman's risk. Treatment has been revolutionary but treatment alone is no solution: for every person newly put on AIDS treatment, several more are infected with HIV. It is well understood that we can not treat our way out of this epidemic, and that developing new prevention approaches is key. However, existing HIV prevention strategies are not enough. The global community urgently needs new prevention options, especially those that empower women to protect their own health and well-being. This is where microbicides can play a vital role. Microbicides are products being developed that women can initiate to prevent the sexual transmission of HIV.

The following report language is respectfully requested on behalf of the International Partnership for Microbicides for the FY2010 appropriations bill:

*US Agency for International Development*

*Microbicides*

*Encouraging results from a recent NIH Microbicide Trials Network safety and effectiveness study of the microbicide candidate PRO2000 showed that the product was 30 percent more effective than any other arm of the study in preventing HIV. While data from this study are not definitive and results from additional trials are needed to confirm these findings, this important study supports the concept that a microbicide could prevent HIV infection.*

*The Committee directs that not less than \$45,000,000 be made available to support the development of microbicides and for eventual product access. The Committee reiterates its request that USAID institute a process for external consultation regarding program priorities and strategies to ensure that the available resources are allocated in a strategic manner. Not later than 90 days after this bill is enacted, USAID shall submit a strategic work plan for microbicide development that details USAID's plans for current and "next-generation" products over the next three-years and that addresses processes for product prioritization and access. The Committee urges USAID to work with NIH, CDC, and other appropriate agencies to develop processes for coordinated investment and prioritization for microbicide development, approval, and access.*

and:

*Microbicides to Prevent HIV*

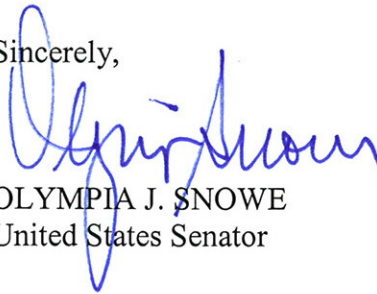
*Encouraging results from a recent NIH Microbicide Trials Network safety and effectiveness study of the microbicide candidate PRO2000 showed that the product was 30 percent more effective than any other arm of the study in preventing HIV. While data from this study are not definitive and results from additional trials are needed to confirm*

*these findings, this important study supports the concept that a microbicide could prevent HIV infection.*

*The need for PEPFAR to support microbicide development and access was highlighted in the PEPFAR reauthorization bill enacted in mid-2008 (Public Law 110-293). The Committee requests OGAC to provide a written report 90 days after enactment of this bill identifying ways that it can play a larger and more effective role in supporting microbicide development and eventual product access and identifying any impediments to it providing this support.*

Once again, thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact my staff with any further questions.

Sincerely,



OLYMPIA J. SNOWE  
United States Senator