

January 11, 2019
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about AIDS and encouraged by your commitment to end this scourge within a decade. This is reminiscent of President Bush's assault with PEPFAR beginning 16 years ago but today the tools for eradication exist. The fates of the programs against smallpox and polio are good lessons in both the possibility of success and the need for vigilance. This program will be very challenging politically. It will require long term focus and tenacity. It will require ignoring such voices as Vice President Pence and Surgeon General Adams who together oversaw an outbreak of AIDS in Indiana. It will require expanding health care access internationally as well as domestically. The broad outline given by HHS makes sense and New York and San Francisco have both provided effective pilot programs giving the country a road map. I look forward to seeing details soon. Success will mean an enduring legacy.

Please assure me that you will dedicate yourself to eliminating AIDS.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our worldwide medical commitments.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson