The Honorable Harry Reid  
U.S. Senate  
528 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510  

July 2, 2008  

Dear Senator Reid:  

I am writing to you on behalf of the American Anthropological Association (AAA) to urge you to vote against any amendments that will reduce funding levels for PEPFAR (S.2731). The AAA was founded in 1902 and is the primary professional society of anthropologists in the United States. With more than 11,000 members, it is the world's largest professional organization of individuals interested in anthropology.  

Our Association is concerned that any decrease in funding for legislation S. 2731 will seriously compromise our nation's international humanitarian mission. We need your strong leadership to ensure the success of PEPFAR in defeating HIV/AIDS and to show that the United States remains a global leader committed to fighting epidemics.  

Medical anthropologists are familiar with the devastation HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria are causing around the world, and many of our Association’s members have seen first-hand the difference PEPFAR can make in saving and improving the lives of millions of people living with these diseases. Legislation S. 2731 will strengthen our country’s commitment by providing aid agencies with the funds and flexibility necessary to address local needs. A reduction in funding could jeopardize the international health initiative implemented by the President, and we urge you to vote against any such amendments doing so.  

We appreciate your prompt consideration in this matter. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please feel free to contact Damon Dozier, AAA Director of Public Affairs, at (703) 528-1902 or ddozier@aaanet.org  

Sincerely,  

Setha Low  
President  
American Anthropological Association