

EAST BAY TIMES

Letters to the editor | East Bay Times

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Letter: Global Fund to Fight AIDS needs support

Sunday is World AIDS Day, a day to celebrate the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria's progress

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Because of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria (GFATM), the day should be a celebration of progress as well as a remembrance of lives lost. When the GFATM began in 2002, HIV/AIDS related causes killed an estimated 3.1 million people, according to the World Health Organization. In 2018, WHO estimates, 770,000 died of HIV-related causes.

The GFATM reduces drug costs and provides funding to help coalitions of public/private stakeholders build and strengthen their countries' health care capabilities. Accountability and transparency requirements built into GFATM grants have reduced corruption in recipient countries.

More than 156 House representatives and 20 senators from both parties in each chamber have pledged \$4.68 million to the GFATM over the next three years. I encourage everyone to urge their congressional representatives, especially Sen. Dianne Feinstein, to deliver the promised amount.

Jim Driggers *Concord*

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URL (East Bay Times)

<https://www.eastbaytimes.com/2019/12/01/letter-global-fund-to-fight-aids-needs-support/>

URL (The Mercury News)

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