

San Francisco Chronicle

THE VOICE OF THE WEST

Founded in 1865 by Charles and M.H. deYoung

A HEARST NEWSPAPER

We can curb AIDS — if U.S. is committed

Thank you for writing that the United States must help stem AIDS worldwide ("An AIDS-free generation," Editorial, Nov. 12).

Despite the smart and sound strategies that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton talked about in her speech at the National Institutes of Health last week, the sobering fact is that global AIDS spending fell in 2010 for the first time in a decade. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, one of the most effective tools we have to win the fight, is faced with severe budget cuts if countries like the United States do not commit promised resources.

Since its inception in 2002,

the Global Fund has saved 7.7 million lives. Economic modeling shows that investing more in AIDS now will reduce deaths and costs in the long run. A new analysis released by amfAR, the Foundation for AIDS Research, shows that proportional reductions in U.S. global health funding would have a minimal impact on deficit reduction while costing thousands of lives and reversing years of gains against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

The bottom line is that we can turn the tide against HIV/AIDS if we have the political will and realize that spending wisely now saves money later.

Lori Saltveit, San Francisco