

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

MAY 25 2006

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
United States Senate
Washington, D.C.
20510

Dear Pat,

This Administration is firmly committed to helping Africa and other countries in need to fight the scourge of HIV/AIDS. The United States is a global leader in providing life-saving medicines and treatment to countries in need.

The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) is a five-year \$15 billion commitment to combat disease in over 100 countries worldwide. This is the largest commitment ever made by the United States and it is the largest pledge ever made by any nation.

There are no present plans by the Administration to propose legislation to the U.S. Congress to allow for the grant of compulsory licensing of pharmaceuticals as permitted under the agreement reached at the WTO.

Expressly permitting the United States government to grant a compulsory license for export would likely require legislation that would affect various areas of United States domestic and international policy. Therefore, any such legislation would require consultation with a number of federal agencies that oversee the areas of US policy that would be affected by such legislation; for example domestic patent law policy and US international health policy.

We believe this idea merits further careful consideration. We would be happy to discuss further with you and your staff.

Sincerely


Rob Portman