



AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM

# LEGISLATIVE ALERT

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## Protect Taxpayers from United Nations Bureaucracy

Today the House will vote on H.R. 1298, the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003. The legislation is an answer to President Bush's request for an Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief.

During the State of the Union address the President laid out a five-year, \$15 billion African and Caribbean initiative to provide treatment, prevention, and humane care for those afflicted as well as orphaned children. Unfortunately, H.R. 1298 does not codify these priorities.

**Because H.R. 1298 does not contain significant safeguards to ensure that American taxpayer's money is not wasted in an effort to fund a growing world bureaucracy, ATR supports the following amendments.**

Representative Cliff Stearns sponsored an amendment that ensures that staff members of the UN Global Fund to fight AIDS do not earn more than the Vice President of the United States. If the UN decides to pay their bureaucrats a higher salary than the Vice President, the United States will redirect the UN funds to bilateral programs funded directly out of the new HIV/AIDS coordinator at the State Department.

Chairman Billy Tauzin and Representative Sherrod Brown have an amendment to include accountability measures to ensure that the UN Global Fund remains fiscally responsible in its use of American taxpayer dollars. The amendment ensures that if at any point administrative expenses within the Global Fund exceed 10% of total expenditures of the Fund for any 2-year period, the U.S. will withhold an equal amount from its contribution the following year.

Finally, Representative Nick Smith introduced an amendment that reconciles funding levels with the President's budget and the budget resolution. The amendment authorizes \$2 billion in FY2004, as called for by the President's budget and the budget resolution, and increases the authorization by \$500 million in each subsequent year until it reaches \$4 billion in FY2008. The amendment protects the President's priorities and prevents H.R. 1298 from being the first bill to bust the budget resolution.

## **ATR MAY RATE THESE VOTES IN OUR ANNUAL CONGRESSIONAL RATINGS**