



Dear Member of Congress,

Dr. Fred Katumba and Jane Byarugaba are health workers in a rural health district in Uganda, a country with 30 times fewer physicians than the United States. In Uganda, 250 people die of AIDS each day and over one million people are living with HIV. Dr. Katumba and Ms. Byarugaba are two of the thousands of health workers in Uganda leading the fight against the AIDS pandemic. Unfortunately, both health workers lack the tools they need to treat their patients because the health system in rural Uganda is crumbling.

- The health district they work in is understaffed: There are only 3 doctors and 8 clinical officers to serve a population of over 70,000.
- There are often no drugs available to treat HIV/AIDS and other treatable infectious diseases.
- People have to walk hours on foot to see Dr. Katumba or Ms. Byarugaba and often do not come until they are desperately ill.
- Many clinics in their district have no electricity, no running water and no major diagnostic equipment like an X-ray machine.

Health workers like Dr. Katumba and Ms. Byarugaba need stronger health systems if they are to stop needless deaths in Africa from AIDS and other treatable diseases. The US has been a global leader in the fight against AIDS, but we cannot sustain our progress unless we begin to fight for the fundamental right to health. Governments must build good quality health systems that are available, accessible, and affordable.

To make this a reality, the US must provide bold leadership. By strengthening health systems in Africa, you can help Dr Katumba and Ms. Byarugaba ensure that everyone enjoys their right to the highest attainable standard of health. On World AIDS Day, we urge you to lead the world in making the right to health for all Africans a reality.

In solidarity with my colleagues in Africa,

