



July 28, 2026

The Honorable Senator Rand Paul
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security
& Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

The Honorable Senator Gary Peters
Ranking Member, Committee on Homeland
Security & Governmental Affairs
United States Senate

Re: Letter of Support for Dr. Anthony S. Fauci

Dear Chairman Paul and Ranking Member Peters,

On behalf of AVAC, we submit this letter to you in strong support of Dr. Anthony S. Fauci, ahead of his scheduled appearance before the Senate Committee on Homeland Security & Governmental Affairs on July 29, 2026. For over 30 years, AVAC has dedicated advocacy in the relentless pursuit of the development for HIV prevention, vaccine and cure options, community-led research and global health equity. Throughout those years, Dr. Fauci has, and continues to be, a crucial leader, partner, ally, advocate, and friend to the HIV/AIDS community in the US and around the world. To that end, we are dismayed and disturbed by the committee choosing to subpoena Dr. Fauci, in pursuit of questionable allegations on the origins and causes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the advent of HIV appearing in the United States in 1981, Dr. Fauci dedicated his career to investigating a virus at time when AIDS was taking the lives of some of the most vulnerable, marginalized communities across our nation. Organizations such as AVAC, Treatment Action Group (TAG), and others were founded in the urgency of a rampant epidemic, with the goal of catalyzing community-led, ethical science and rigorous research to upend diseases like HIV/AIDS and ultimately save lives. When Dr. Fauci was appointed to lead the National Institute for Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in 1984, he did not simply listen to the demands of activists – he directly engaged in dialogue, in research design, opening doors and tables to closed rooms at the heralded NIH – becoming a partner and setting the standard on how true, community-engaged research and development should and must be modeled. He has done that throughout his 38 years in that role, until his retirement in 2022.

Throughout the history of the HIV epidemic, the community did not always agree with Dr. Fauci. In the face of community criticism for slow research and regulatory approvals for potentially lifesaving therapeutics, Dr. Fauci chose to work closely with community advocates and activists to develop policies and rules that brought treatment access faster to those suffering from HIV/AIDS – actively reorganizing the way NIH/NIAID conducted clinical research to be more responsive and meet the public health needs of the people. Disagreement and consensus-building is a fundamental tenet of science. To be able to challenge, question, engage in dialogue and be heard by respected and renowned researchers such as Dr. Fauci made for stronger science

Accelerating ethical development of and
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built upon trust, consent, and an acute understanding of the lives of those impacted and involved from the very inception of research ideas through the programmatic roll-out of innovations that result from publicly funded science. Dr. Fauci blazed this trail – bringing along the community and the public into the auspices of the NIH and federal government – earning trust, which resulted in numerous advances and gains in the science and development of biomedical countermeasures against HIV.

Dr. Fauci's research, contributions, and dedication to understanding the immunology and virology of HIV, has transformed the field on the pathogenesis and treatment of immune-mediated and infectious diseases. His research is fundamental in giving us insight on how the HIV virus destroys the human body's defenses, making it susceptible and succumbing to opportunistic infections. Furthermore, Dr. Fauci's research was crucial in the development of highly efficacious therapeutic strategies for individuals with this serious disease, as well as for the pursuit of a future vaccine to prevent HIV. In sum, his research has been, and continues to be, cited in over 300,000+ published clinical research papers on infectious diseases – making him one of the most influential, American-born, educated and raised scientists in the world.

Dr. Fauci was also one of the chief architects of the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has saved the lives of over 26 million people globally by catalyzing access to HIV treatment and prevention. Treatment and prevention options that were made possible by Dr. Fauci and other scientists at NIH/NIAID. Fiercely apolitical and devoted to the pursuit of objective publicly-funded science, Dr. Fauci has served at the behest of numerous Presidential administrations – bringing much-needed steadiness, clear vision and bipartisan direction in mobilizing government resources and saving lives through the HIV/AIDS, H1N1 influenza, SARS, Ebola, and COVID-19 emergencies and infectious threats facing our nation.

We implore the committee to cease its erroneous investigations and harassment of renowned scientists and public servants such as Dr. Fauci, whose career, track-record, and devotion to public health research and development has changed the very course of the HIV epidemic at home and abroad. Over five years of accusations and investigations into Dr. Fauci's leadership and handling of the COVID-19 epidemic has yielded no substantive conclusions or evidence of nefarious wrongdoing or cover-ups. In fact, we worry that public trust will continue to erode in the nation's scientific and public health institutions that is already contending with escalating vaccine skepticism and misunderstanding of 'gain-of-function' research. The continuous attempts by members of the committee to relitigate Dr. Fauci as culpable in US' failed response to COVID-19, obscures the numerous flaws and current gaps in our country's medical countermeasure and pandemic response capabilities. The continued targeting of scientists and public servants, tied with cuts to publicly funded science, unlawful delays in transferring Congressionally appropriated funding, disruption of long-standing international research partnerships, termination of numerous clinical trials, politicization of scientific grants by the administration, and the wanton destruction of the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and erosion of PEPFAR programs globally further places our emerging infectious disease response and pandemic preparedness capabilities in peril. Making the next emerging

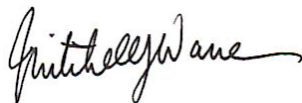
pandemic potentially even deadlier and undoing the decades research and programmatic infrastructure built by scientists like Dr. Fauci alongside communities to strengthen global health security and enhance mutual cooperation.

We are gravely concerned that the continued politicization of science and targeted subpoenaing of public servants like Dr. Fauci, will have a chilling effect on both current and prospective scientists and clinicians in joining our renowned research institutions – with fear of being reprimanded or subject to harassment – for simply following objective, ethically rigorous science and evidence. Combined with the loss of critical staffing to manage grants, politically-motivated regulations on government grants, and a slow-down in issuance of NIH/NIAID awards, young, talented, promising researchers may choose to completely avoid career pathways to public service. This further exacerbates an overall workforce problem, retrenching the government's ability to staff our scientific and pandemic response infrastructure with our best and brightest. Continued public persecution of premier scientists and public servants will only lose the country's ability to be the leading scientific superpower that has historically been a core strategy of our diplomatic efforts and country partnerships across the world.

In summary, Dr. Fauci's legacy, career, and deep partnership with the HIV/AIDS community has demonstrated what happens when trust, cooperation, and respect come together in the united goal and pursuit of saving lives. We respectfully request and urge the committee to stop its investigation into Dr. Fauci over the COVID-19 response. Answers to the sub-optimal response by the US government are still needed to ensure we are prepared for the next epidemic – but not through intimidation and bullying of current or past public servants. Instead, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee should refocus towards urgent matters of strengthening global health security – as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, Ebola, hantavirus, and other emerging infectious diseases threaten Americans everywhere.

We thank the members of the committee for the opportunity to submit this letter in support of Dr. Fauci. Should you have any questions, please feel to contact Mitchell Warren, AVAC's Executive Director at mitchell@avac.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mitchell Warren", with a stylized, flowing script.

Mitchell Warren
Executive Director