

countries to garner support from their own economic, scientific, and philanthropic communities for the development of an HIV vaccine;

(3) the members of the Group of Eight should follow-up the June 2004 meeting in Sea Island, Georgia with official and private meetings, conferences, and other events to further explore and implement initiatives concerning the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise;

(4) the members of the Group of Eight should leverage financial contributions from the international philanthropic community to provide funding, including funding to the private sector, to promote the development of an HIV vaccine;

(5) the members of the Group of Eight should include the scientific and political leadership of those countries most affected by the pandemic of HIV and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (hereinafter referred to as "AIDS"); and

(6) the members of the Group of Eight should develop a specific plan for furthering efforts towards this goal prior to the meeting of the Group of Eight planned for June 2005 in the United Kingdom.

#### SEC. 2. THE GLOBAL HIV VACCINE ENTERPRISE.

The Senate urges the President to continue the efforts of the United States to generate global support for the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise by carrying out an initiative that—

(1) is in coordination and partnership with the members of the Group of Eight, the private sector, and other countries, especially those countries most affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic;

(2) encourages the members of the Group of Eight to act swiftly to mobilize money and resources to support the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise;

(3) includes a strategic plan to prioritize the scientific and other challenges to the development of an HIV vaccine, as set out in the Scientific Strategic Plan developed by the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise, to coordinate research and product development efforts, and to encourage greater use of information-sharing networks and technologies;

(4) encourages the establishment of a number of coordinated global HIV vaccine development centers that have a sufficient number of researchers who possess the scientific expertise necessary to advance the development of an HIV vaccine; and

(5) increases cooperation, communication, and sharing of information on issues related to HIV and AIDS among regulatory authorities in various countries.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution expressing the Sense of the Senate on promoting initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine.

On June 6, 2004, I introduced Senate Resolution 398 urging the President to promote initiatives to develop an HIV vaccine. While I am encouraged by the progress that has taken place in the months since I submitted that resolution, much remains to be done to develop an effective HIV vaccine. Because of the gravity and urgency of this issue, I am submitting my resolution.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is unlike any disease in history and has profound implications for political stability, development, and human welfare. The sheer magnitude of the crisis is overwhelming. An estimated 40,000,000 peo-

ple around the world live with HIV or AIDS, and nearly 8,500 people die every day from AIDS. Last year alone, more than 3 million people died from AIDS. Every 14 seconds, a child loses a parent to AIDS. An estimated 14,000,000 children have lost one or both parents to AIDS, and this number is expected to increase to 25 million by 2010. According to recent projections from the World Health Organization and the Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS, UNAIDS, if the pandemic spreads at its current rate, there will be 45 million new infections by 2010 and nearly 70 million deaths by 2020. Sub-Saharan Africa has been hardest hit by the disease, with more than 75 percent of the people infected with HIV living in the region.

The U.S. is leading global efforts to combat the pandemic through its \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and its commitment to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria. But the human and economic toll of the HIV pandemic demands that these activities be complemented by accelerated efforts to develop an HIV vaccine. An HIV vaccine would prevent new HIV and AIDS cases, which could save millions of lives and dramatically reduce the negative social and economic consequences of the disease. Yet, HIV vaccine development is still not prominent on national or international public health agendas.

Developing an HIV vaccine is particularly challenging because HIV is one of the most complicated viruses ever identified. In addition, many private sector biotechnology companies have not invested money and expertise in the search for an HIV vaccine. Developing an HIV vaccine, therefore, is unlikely to occur without a well-coordinated and focused global research effort.

The Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise is mobilizing such an effort. The Enterprise is an alliance of the world's leading scientists and independent organizations around the world committed to accelerating the development of a preventive vaccine for HIV/AIDS. The Enterprise, like the Human Genome Project, seeks to promote a new level of coordination and information-sharing to address a complex scientific problem. In addition, the HIV Vaccine Enterprise is intended to accelerate progress by promoting international public-private collaboration.

The International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, IAVI, has been instrumental in laying the groundwork for the Enterprise. The IAVI is an international organization that collaborates with developing countries, governments, and international agencies dedicated to accelerating the development of a vaccine to halt the AIDS epidemic. The IAVI, however, cannot accomplish this task alone. Here in the United States, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

and the Rockefeller Foundation have joined forces to help address the financial problems faced by small biotechnology companies. They founded BIO Ventures for Global Health to help small biotechnology companies address the problems they confront in developing new medical products for poor countries. The wider application of this model would greatly improve the development of vaccines and other medicines aimed at improving health in the developing world.

Under President Bush's leadership, the Members of the Group of Eight Industrialized Nations, G-8, during their meeting at Sea Island last June, endorsed the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise. At the meeting, President Bush announced plans to establish a second HIV Vaccine Research and Development Center in the United States, in addition to the one already operating at the U.S. National Institutes of Health. Recently, the President announced funding for that second center, the Center for HIV/AIDS Vaccine Immunology, CHAVI, which will become a key component of the Enterprise.

I commend the President's leadership on this critically important issue. The G-8's endorsement of the Global HIV Vaccine Enterprise is a big step forward in the development of an HIV vaccine. My resolution acknowledges the President's and the G-8's actions towards this goal and urges them to continue to cooperate with other countries, particularly those hit hardest by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to achieve this important objective.

#### NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

##### COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I wish to announce that the Committee on Rules and Administration will meet on Tuesday, February 8, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct its organization meeting for the 109th Congress.

For further information regarding this hearing, please contact Susan Wells at the Rules and Administration Committee on 224-6352.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

##### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to meet on Monday, February 7, 2005, at a time and location to be determined to hold a business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael Chertoff to be Secretary of Homeland Security, and Allen Weinstein to be Archivist of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.