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Giving to Global Fund is truly pro-growth

Rep. Paul Ryan asked, "Are we interested in treating the symptoms of poverty and economic stagnation ... or do we want to go at the root causes of poverty and economic stagnation by promoting pro-growth policies that promote prosperity?"

One pro-growth policy he should promote is full funding of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. A recent scientific discovery is that early treatment of HIV/AIDS can lead to a 98 percent drop in infection rates.

New diagnostic equipment shortens TB testing and identification from weeks to less than two hours. The AIDS/TB pandemics together kill 3.1 million people a year. They orphan children, sunder families and drag economic development.

Fighting these diseases overseas is much less expensive than fighting them here. Unless these pandemics are greatly reduced, they pose a health threat to our nation.

The United States is hosting an international conference in December to replenish the Global Fund. A U.S. funding pledge of \$5 billion over three years will leverage contributions from other nations and safeguard our and the world's health.

Jim Driggers
Concord