

**Testimony of Dr. Kent R. Hill
Assistant Administrator-designate
Bureau for Global Health
U.S. Agency for International Development
before the
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate**

September 30, 2005

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee, for the opportunity to appear here today as President Bush's nominee for Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Global Health of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

For the past four years, I have been privileged to serve as the Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia. In this capacity, I have confronted in Russia and Ukraine two of the fastest national growth rates for HIV/AIDS. I have presided over a four-fold increase of USAID funding for HIV/AIDS programming in this region. In addition, my Bureau helped secure commitments for \$670 million dollars (mainly related to HIV/AIDS, but one third for tuberculosis and malaria) from the Global Fund for countries in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, with over half directed to Russia and Ukraine. During my tenure as Assistant Administrator, the percentage of USAID funds devoted to health in Europe and Eurasia has doubled from 8 to 14 percent.

For the past two years, I have represented USAID in the U.S. government's inter-agency efforts devoted to combating trafficking in persons, furthering my experience in dealing with the difficult interplay between U.S. assistance and "at-risk" populations involved with prostitution and drug usage. I

have provided leadership at USAID in emphasizing the connection between cultural/moral development (emphasizing norms which transcend national, religious, and ethnic differences), and economic, political, and social transition reforms. I have argued for and helped to implement innovative programs based on the premise that the latter reforms will not take root and be sustained without establishing a firm base of cultural and moral values.

Since President Bush designated me to act as Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Global Health in January 2005, I have particularly focused my attention on coming to understand and articulate the importance of the official USG strategy of “ABC” (Abstinence, Be Faithful, and appropriate use of Condoms) in the fight against AIDS. I have worked closely during this time with the U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator, Ambassador Randal Tobias. On occasion, when Ambassador Tobias has not been available, I have occupied the U.S. representative Chair in Geneva at a UNAIDS Conference and in London at a Global Fund Replenishment Conference. If confirmed, I will give up my position as the Assistant Administrator for the Bureau for Europe and Eurasia and devote full-time to the on-going priorities of the Bureau for Global Health, which currently manages or co-manages \$1.67 billion in international health programs.

During my tenure as Assistant Administrator at USAID, I have managed a staff of over 1400 people in missions in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, including my staff in the bureau in Washington. I have also acquired considerable experience in working with the inter-agency foreign policy apparatus of the U.S. government. If confirmed, I believe this management

experience in facilitating democracy, economic development, and social transition will provide me with a very useful base to now focus my attention on seeking to advance U.S. objectives in the area of global health.

While serving as acting Assistant Administrator of the Bureau for Global Health over the past eight plus months, I have gained considerable familiarity and comfort with the issues and programs of USAID related to health in the areas of HIV/AIDS, other infectious diseases, maternal and child health, family planning, environmental health, nutrition and other life-saving areas. More specifically, I have helped design the inter-agency plan to implement the Presidential Malaria Initiative -- a \$1.2 billion five-year commitment by the president to cut mortality due to malaria in the focus countries by 50% after three years of full implementation, achieving an overall coverage of 85% in at risk populations such as children, pregnant women and HIV-infected individuals. In addition, in my acting capacity I have been the lead for USAID in the inter-agency preparation for the threatened Avian Influenza pandemic.

In conclusion, I am proud to be nominated for this position with the U.S. Agency for International Development, and am eager to serve the President and work with the Congress in carrying out our international health priorities.

Mr. Chairman, thank you and the Committee for considering my nomination at this hearing. This concludes my testimony, and I would be pleased to answer any of your or the Committee's questions.