

of society—dying, disappearing because of this little virus.

Every time I go to Africa—last year I was there in September—I am overwhelmed by the devastation this little vicious virus causes. To me, and I know to the distinguished Senator occupying the chair now, who also has spent his life studying disease and viruses and the like, it is remarkable because in 1983 we didn't know this thing existed. It probably didn't really exist as we know it today in the United States of America in 1983, when both I and probably the distinguished Senator in the chair were not that old. I was in my training at the time. To think that little virus is devastating the world in the way it has over a 21-year period is just unbelievable to me.

If you walk through a village in Africa, or parts of Africa, it becomes apparent what this virus is doing. You see older people and you see little kids running around. What you do not see is people from about 19 years of age to 28 or 30 years of age, or 35, right through that age. That whole layer of the population has been wiped out by this virus. That segment is also usually the most productive, strongest part of a society and it is just wiped out.

The young boys and girls you see running around, if you project that out, are left to fend for themselves. They might live with their grandparents or great-grandparents, but they generally don't have the sort of mentors which that age would otherwise be provided. Mature beyond their years, these little kids watch hopelessly as their parents die, as their uncles die, as their aunts die. When I say 35 percent of the population has HIV/AIDS, that is what it means when you are on the ground.

That is depressing. That is the depressing part. Despite that depressing picture, there is a lot of hope. If you look in countries such as Brazil and Thailand, there has been a real success in keeping those infection rates down. Uganda has achieved remarkable success.

President Museveni, from Uganda, was here a few weeks ago. I had the opportunity to speak with him about their success. They have used some innovative programs. They have really pioneered programs we know are successful.

The one we talk about the most and has become a model for much of the global effort is the ABC program, a program of A, abstinence; B, be faithful to your partner; and C, condom use if the A and B are ineffective. So the strategy of ABC was pioneered in Uganda. It took Presidential leadership there. President Museveni was the President who, in every speech, talked about HIV/AIDS, which really wasn't popular when he started, about 15 years ago, to do so.

The strategy incorporates both reducing the risk through the use of condoms with a strategy of risk avoidance through the message of limiting sexual partners.

It is totally preventable. The disease itself, this little virus and the contagiousness of the virus is totally preventable.

The comprehensive strategy is working. Uganda's HIV/AIDS infection rate has steadily declined. In 2001, the infection rate for 18- to 49-year-olds was 5 percent. In Kampala, which is a major urban center in Uganda, where HIV/AIDS once raged, aggressive intervention lowered it from 29 percent down to 8 percent.

I had the opportunity to operate at a wonderful hospital in Kampala about 2 years ago, 3 years ago. So to see that remarkable progress, cutting the infection rate from 30 down to 8 percent, has been remarkable.

The world community must respond. The world community is responding. The United States of America has stepped up to lead the battle. Last year, Congress passed and the President signed a global HIV/AIDS bill which projects out \$15 billion over 5 years for the prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS. At the end of the program's first year, over 200,000 people will be on treatment with 1.1 million people receiving care. In the past few months, the U.S. has released \$865 million in HIV/AIDS funding to the 15 nations receiving those emergency funds.

This year, America will provide \$2.4 billion to combat that HIV/AIDS virus, as well as tuberculosis and malaria, two other infectious diseases that cause about between 1 and 2 and 3 million deaths in addition, each year, respectively. Ultimately, America's efforts will prevent 7 million new infections. It will provide antiretroviral drugs for 2 million HIV-infected people. It will provide care for 10 million HIV-infected individuals with AIDS and AIDS orphans. This will bring hope to millions of people around the world. It is a lofty goal of a great and compassionate nation.

I have taken the opportunity to mention this today, on Friday, because much of that is from the report of last Tuesday.

Next week there will be some very significant meetings. Over 15,000 scientists and AIDS activists and advocates will gather in Thailand, in Bangkok, for the International AIDS Conference. They will look at prevention efforts. They will look at treatment efforts. They will look at real-life experience. They will look at what works and what does not work, so we can better address this global epidemic.

Americans can be proud of our commitment and compassion. The United States of America is the most generous nation in the world today in fighting HIV/AIDS and providing substantial resources for that prevention, care, and treatment for those infected with the virus.

We will spend about \$2.4 billion on global AIDS this year and an estimated \$2.8 billion next year. We have already provided over \$1.1 billion to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and

Malaria. That is approximately one-third of all the commitments to the fund. Our country, the United States of America, has provided about one-third of all the commitments to the fund and the rest of the world makes up the other two-thirds.

We can't do it alone. It is going to take participation of the recipient countries. They must do their part to promote effective prevention and treatment strategies. It takes demonstrated national leadership such as the leadership of President Museveni in Uganda. Our friends and our allies must continue to provide firm financial and moral support. Nations are contributing. We want to encourage them to contribute more, and that is reflected in the statistics from last week. But demand continues to outstrip or grow faster than supply. Other wealthy nations must increase their contributions. We cannot rely on the Global Fund alone to combat global HIV/AIDS. It takes sustained, focused efforts on the part of individual countries, rich and poor, to lift the shadow of HIV/AIDS. Our Congress, this body, and the President of the United States have shown tremendous leadership in the battle against HIV/AIDS.

It is my hope this week's U.N. report and next week's conference will not just be occasions for more talk but will be catalysts for greater action on the part of the world's leaders. History is going to judge whether the global community stood by and permitted one of the greatest destructions of human life in recorded history or stepped in and performed one of its most heroic rescues. America has chosen the latter. Let us hope the world will, too.

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#### PROGRAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, let me remind my Senators one more time that on Monday, Senators are encouraged to come to the floor to speak on the constitutional amendment on marriage. I will be discussing with the Democratic leader a process for debate and consideration of that joint resolution. Given the amount of debate, I do not foresee a vote on Monday. Thus, as I mentioned a few minutes ago, there will be no rollcall votes during Monday's session.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
JULY 12, 2004, AT 1 P.M.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:22 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 12, 2004, at 1 p.m.