

August 25, 2011

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Chair,
Subcommittee on State/Foreign Operations
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chair:

We are writing to express our extreme concern about the potentially devastating effects of the deep and disproportionate cuts in the House of Representative's International Affairs Budget. As you continue work on the Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Appropriations bills we, the undersigned organizations, urge you to defend long-standing US commitments to meet critical health and development needs by fully funding the International Affairs account, including global health programs, within the State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs Appropriation bill. The bill being considered in the House would cut 9% from current global health funding levels. The bill also includes policy riders that will compromise the effectiveness of these programs.

This means that

- 24,074 more infants will be infected with HIV
- 345,559 orphans and vulnerable children will potentially lose their food, education, and livelihood assistance
- AIDS treatment will be eliminated for 332,216 people;
- 3.8 million fewer people will be treated for malaria
- 37,292 fewer people with tuberculosis (TB) and 375 fewer people with multidrug-resistant TB would receive lifesaving treatment, seriously endangering their lives as well as others' due to the highly contagious nature of this illness.
- Over 1 million (1,028,330) fewer children could receive low-cost antibiotics to treat pneumonia – the leading killer of kids under five
- 1.6 (1,623,165) million fewer children could receive oral rehydration salts that can help save many of the 1.2 million who die needlessly from diarrhea.
- More than 900,000 (910,158) children could not be immunized against measles, tetanus, and pertussis and limit access for pneumonia and rotavirus vaccines
- Over 15 million people would not be treated for neglected tropical diseases
- Almost 3 million more unintended pregnancies will occur
- 9.4 million fewer women and couples would have access to receiving contraceptive services
- 7,700 more maternal deaths
- Thousands of health workers could not receive the midwifery training needed to help ensure that mothers deliver with a skilled health worker present - seriously endangering the life of the mother and newborn.

This is not the time for the United States to retreat from global leadership on health and development assistance programs. In a world where health, development and economic growth are inextricably linked, it is in the best interest of our economy and national security to ensure

the creation of strong and healthy nations. It is important that U.S. efforts to defend our national security be augmented by health and development policies and programs that prevent inequity and unrest. The U.S. must remain committed to battling conditions that lead to extreme deprivation – such as lack of access to food, safe water, adequate health care – and infringement of basic human rights, which create environments conducive to fostering threats against the security of our nation.

Although the U.S. budget for global health comprises less than one percent of the total federal budget, these programs are high-impact and cost-effective. U.S. support for global health - has provided funding that has enabled the U.S. to

- treat more than 3 million people living with HIV and prevent HIV transmission among millions more;
- cut the number of malaria cases by more than 50% in 43 countries in the last 10 years;
- immunize more than 100 million children each year;
- treat 10 million people with tuberculosis;
- treat more than 168 million people for neglected tropical diseases;
- increased the number of skilled birth attendants present during
- deliveries;
- and support research to develop and deliver new vaccines, drugs, and other critical health tools

These resources allocated to global health are critical to advancing U.S. interests and other international development targets and objectives, mitigating the effects of the global financial crisis and securing a healthier, safer world. Now is not the time to roll back progress.

We recognize and understand the difficult fiscal environment facing this country. We are also concerned about the costs of disproportionate cuts on programs that have proven their value and effectiveness. Drastically slashing US global health programs will reverse the gains we have seen worldwide, and ultimately cost us more in the long run. An overwhelming majority of Americans across the political spectrum have supported U.S. assistance for global health and development programs. We urge you to support full funding for the International Affairs budget and American commitments to global health in the FY 12 and reject the House policy riders. We also urge that funding for global health not come at the expense of other development and humanitarian assistance accounts.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Accordia Global Health Foundation
Advocates for Youth
Aeras
Africare
AIDS United
American Jewish World Service
American Medical Students Association
American Red Cross

American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
American Thoracic Society
Americans for UNFPA
amFAR, The Foundation for AIDS Research
AMREF
CARE USA
Catholics for Choice
Center for Environment and Population
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Center for Reproductive Rights
ChildFund
Christian Connections for International Health
Chronic Care Foundation of India
CORE Group
Drugs for Neglected Diseases Initiative (DNDi)
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF)
EngenderHealth
Every Mother Counts
Family Care International
FHI 360
Feminist Majority
FIND
Food for the Hungry
Foundation Beyond Belief
Friends of the Global Fight
Future Generations Peru
Futures Without Violence
Ipas
General Board of Church and Society, the United Methodist Church
Global Alliance to Prevent Prematurity and Stillbirth
The Global Forum on MSM & HIV (MSMGF)
Global Health Council
Global Network for Neglected Tropical Diseases
Global Research and Advocacy Group
HealthGAP
Health Right International
Helen Keller International (HKI)
HIV Medicine Association
IAVI
IDRI
IMA World Health
IntraHealth
International HIV/AIDS Alliance
International Medical Corps
International Planned Parenthood Federation/Western Hemisphere
International Women's Health Coalition
Jewish Women International
Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Center for Communication Programs

John Snow Inc
LIVESTRONG
Lutheran World Relief
Management Sciences for health
MB Foundation
Medical Benevolence Foundation
MSI-US
NASTAD
National Council of Jewish Women
National Organization for Women
Nothing But Nets
Oncology International, LLC
Open Society Policy Center
Oxfam America
Partners in Health
PATH
Pathfinder International
PCI
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Population Action International
Population Connection
Population institute
Project HOPE
PSI
Public Health Institute
Research!America
RESULTS
Save the Children
Science with a Mission
Secular Coalition for America
Sierra Club
Stop AIDS Alliance
TB Alliance
The AIDS Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
Wellshare International
White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood
Women DELIVER
World Education
World Learning