

June 28, 2012

Dear Senator:

We write as religious institutions and faith-based organizations to express our appreciation for the increase in poverty-focused international development, humanitarian assistance and global health programs within State and Foreign Operations appropriations.

As Senators from both sides of the aisle recognize, even with our fiscal challenges, this is a crucial time to strengthen non-defense aspects of U.S. foreign policy that contribute to a more secure world for all people.

Our communities of faith are engaged in humanitarian and sustainable development programs with our partners around the world. But this life-saving work cannot succeed without a robust U.S. commitment expressing the compassion of the American people and nation.

Using less than one percent of the federal budget, poverty-focused foreign assistance saves lives, lays the groundwork for economic growth around the world and fosters global human security. Its programs alleviate hunger and malnutrition, help communities access clean water and sanitation, facilitate rural development, educate children, combat deadly but preventable diseases and promote global health.

Please know that we will be doing all we can to support these vital increases during conference negotiations.

Again, many thanks. Our prayers remain with you in your important work.

Sincerely,

American Friends Service Committee
American Jewish World Service
Bread for the World
Christian Connections for International Health
Church of the Brethren
Church World Service
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach
Conference of Major Superiors of Men
Disciples Center for Public Witness
Franciscan Action Network
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Global Ministries of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ.
Holy Name Province Franciscans (OFM) Office for Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation for
Office for JPIC

Lutheran World Relief
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
Oblates of Mary Immaculate, Justice, Peace/Integrity of Creation Office
National Council of Churches USA
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Islamic Society of North America
Leadership Conference of Women Religious
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Office of Public Witness
Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
Universalist Association of Congregations
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society