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

- o 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;
- o 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
- o 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,

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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 CARF 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** lpas 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 Internatonal HIV/AIDS Alliance International Medical Corps International Planned Parent 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