



August 30, 2017

Dear Senator xxxx:

Thank you for your leadership in support of maternal and child health programs serving the most vulnerable. As faith-based organizations and individuals who view these programs as a moral responsibility of the United States, we are grateful for your commitment to saving the lives of women and children around the world. As the Senate Appropriations Committee debates the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriation Act, we write to express our support for fully funding international family planning at the FY 2017 enacted level of \$575M.

As members of the *Faith-Based Coalition for Healthy Mothers and Children Worldwide*, a network of advocates speaking out about the struggles that mothers and children in developing nations face daily, we know that an investment in family planning is an investment that saves lives, particularly in areas of conflict and instability.

Earlier this year, we wrote the Chairman and Ranking Members of both Appropriations Committees to express our support for maintaining a strong International Affairs budget in the face of severe cuts proposed by President Trump's Administration. We understand the current constraints on the budget and are very grateful for the support you and your committee provided to protect this critical funding.

Now, as the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations Act nears consideration, we are hopeful that Senate support for international family planning will remain as strong as it has been in recent years and respectfully ask that you provide your support for funding this critical account at enacted FY17 levels, including through a potential bilateral funding amendment, if necessary.

When women and girls lack access to the education and resources they need to create a healthy plan for becoming mothers, the result is tragic—303,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 5.9 million children die before their fifth birthday each year. In many cases these mothers and children are without a home or the resources needed for basic care due to conflict, as women and girls make up 80 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees globally.

We recognize the difficult decisions you face in a constrained budget environment, but we know the truly life-saving impact of U.S. investments in women and children. As people of faith we believe that we all have a duty to do what is within our power to help uplift these women and their families to flourish through improved health. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator William H. Frist, MD

Founder and Chair, Hope Through Healing Hands

Jeff Ables

Sue Allen

Kenny & Christiev Alphin

Lead Pastor, Crossroads Church

Coordinator, Social Justice Ministry

Artist (Big & Rich)

Lafayette, LA

Starkville, MS

Nashville, TN

Rev. Dr. Guy Ames	Associate Pastor, Asbury United Methodist Church	Tulsa, OK
Dr. Corinne Williams Anderson	President, American Association of University Women (AAUW-MS)	Jackson, MS
Scott Arbeiter	President, World Relief	Baltimore, MD
Andi Ashworth	Editor, Art House America	Nashville, TN
Walter August, Jr.	Author, Sr. Pastor & Chairman of Bethel's Family Church	Houston, TX
Daphene Baines	First Lady of Southern Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Steve Bell	Executive Vice President, Willow Creek Association	Kildeer, IL
Steve Berger	Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel	Leipers Fork, TN
Kenton & Laurie Beshore	Senior Pastors, Mariners Church	Irvine, CA
Lisa Bevere	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International	Colorado Springs, CO
Emily Blackledge	President, African Leadership, Inc.	Brentwood, TN
Bob Bleses	Interim Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA
Jill Boes, RN, BSN	Clinical and Outreach Director, Hope Clinic for Women	Nashville, TN
Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton	President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary	Indianapolis, IN
Annette Bourland	Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan	Grand Rapids, MI
Leigh Brandenburg	International Missions Team, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Dale Brantner	President and CEO, CURE International	Lemoyne, PA
Tim Breene	CEO, World Relief	Baltimore, MD
Kay Brocato, PhD	Associate Professor, Mississippi State University	Starkville, MS
Colleen Buroughs	Vice President, Passport, Inc.	Birmingham, AL
Christine Caine	Founder, Propel Women	Costa Mesa, CA
Tony Campolo, PhD	Author & Speaker, Eastern University	St. David's, PA
Fr. Joe Carnes Ananias	Former Associate Rector, Christ Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Mary Beth Chapman	Author	Franklin, TN
Steven Curtis Chapman	Artist	Franklin, TN
Kacie Chase	Coordinator, Global Missions Health Conference	Louisville, KY
Jennifer Cooke	Manager, Amy Grant	Nashville, TN
Chaz Corzine	Manager, The MWS Group	Franklin, TN
Shannon & Kevin Conforti	Director(s) of Family Health, Christian Flights International	Lexington, KY
Ian Morgan Cron	Author & Episcopal Priest	Franklin, TN
Rev. Beverly Crowetipton	Senior Pastor, Fairview United Methodist Church	Greenville, SC
David Dark, PhD	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Rev. Brandon Dasinger	Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions, Frazer United Methodist Church	Montgomery, AL
Dale Dawson	CEO, Bridge2Rwanda	Little Rock, AR
Chris Devaney	Executive Director, Children's Nutrition Program in Haiti	Chattanooga, TN
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Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake	Westminster Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
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Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
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Jeanette Fuccella	Executive Director, Hearts with Haiti	Raleigh, NC
Gary Furr, PhD	Pastor, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL

Mike Geary	CEO, Lexington Leadership Foundation	Lexington, KY
Mike Glenn	Sr. Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church	Brentwood, TN
Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Natalie Grant	Artist	Brentwood, TN
Jennifer Grant	Author & Speaker	Wheaton, IL
Andrew Greer	Artist, Songwriters, & Author	Franklin, TN
Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist & Mother	Franklin, TN
Scott Hamilton	Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Michael Hart	Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church	Orlando, FL
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
Rev. Joshua McCrory Hatcher	Senior Pastor, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church	St. Louis, MO
Esther Havens	Humanitarian Photographer	Dallas, TX
Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe	General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society, The United Methodist Church	Washington, DC
Dr. William "Hess" Hester	Senior Pastor, Southern Hills Baptist Church	Tulsa, OK
Marcus D. Holman	Missions Pastor & President of Bethel's Family Church Global Reach	Houston, TX
Lynne Hybels	Advocate for Global Engagement, Willow Creek Community Church	South Barrington, IL
Christopher Ingram	Senior Pastor, Yates Baptist Church	Durham, NC
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Joyce Kinley	President, Church Women United State of Ohio and Church United of Greater Cincinnati Inc.	Cincinnati, OH
The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr.	Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Houston, TX
Francie Likis, DrPH, NP, CNM	Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health	Nashville, TN
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Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
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Tom McCloskey	Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church	Orlando, FL
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health	Plano, TX
Brian McLaren	Author, Speaker, & Activist – Convergenceus.org	Marco Island, FL
Kim McManus	International Pastor, Mosaic Church	Los Angeles, CA
Greg McMorro, MD	Board member, Christian Flights International	Perryville, KY
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Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado	President, Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Dr. Jack Mercer	Sr. Pastor, Church on the Drive	Orlando, FL
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Rev. Johnnie Moore	Founder, The KAIROS Company	Lake Forest, CA

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Charlie Peacock	Music Producer & Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University	Nashville, TN
Anna Phillips	Development Director, Bridge2Rwanda	Nashville, TN
Robin Price	Outreach Director, Crossroads Church	Lafayette, LA
Richard Ramsey	Outreach Pastor, North Metro Church	Marietta, GA
Mark & Vickie Reddy	Directors, The Justice Conference	Chicago, IL
Dr. Gus Reyes	Director, Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists	Austin, TX
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Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Sacramento, CA
Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
John Rogers	Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, University Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill, NC
Josh Rouse	Global Outreach Pastor, Northeast Christian Church	Louisville, KY
Rev. Gabriel Salguero	President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition	Orlando, FL
Rev. Edwin Sanders II	Pastor, Calvario City Church	
Scott Sauls	Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church	Nashville, TN
Jo Saxton	Sr. Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Dan Scott	Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker	Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Sarah Shelton	Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville	Nashville, TN
Lott Shudde	Sr. Pastor, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Angie Smith	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Anita Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Michael W. Smith	President, Children's AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC
Shepherd Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Durwood Snead	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC
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Rev. Becca Stevens	Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
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Andrea Summer, MD	CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations	Bristol, TN
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Jason Surratt	Pastor of Stewardship and Global Missions, Seacoast Church	Charleston, SC
Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN	Dean & Professor, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Debbie Taylor	Artist & Mother	Nashville, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN

Third Day
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Stephaine H. Walker, MD

Jim Wallis
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Barrett Ward
Stefanie Weiland
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner
Rev. Chad Wible
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President and Founder, Sojourners
Executive Director, Family Health Ministries
Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE
Executive Director, LifeNet International
Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation
Sr. Pastor, Community Covenant Church
President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board
President & CEO, Siloam Health
Author & Co-Founder, Grace for Moms

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