



July 6, 2017

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Thad Cochran
110 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congresswoman Nita Lowey
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Rogers, Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, and Chairman Graham:

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 your committees develop the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations bills, we write to express our support for fully funding the International Affairs Account at the FY 2017 enacted level. We specifically request that you maintain level funding for the maternal, newborn and child health and international family planning accounts.

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.

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.

If we zero out funding for international family planning in the global health programs account, as the President has recommended, thousands, and possibly millions, of lives could be lost. We respectfully ask you to consider this cost and to restore the funding to international family planning at FY17 levels.

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	Lead Pastor, Crossroads Church	Lafayette, LA
Sue Allen	Coordinator, Social Justice Ministry	Starkville, MS
Kenny & Christiev Alphin	Artist (Big & Rich)	Nashville, TN
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 Pastor, Mariners Church	Irvine, CA
Lisa Bevere	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International	Colorado Springs, CO
Emily Blackledge	President, African Leadership, Inc.	Brentwood, TN
Bob Blees	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
Rick Carter	Child Survival Program Dir., Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Mary Beth Chapman	Author	Franklin, TN
Steven Curtis Chapman	Artist	Franklin, TN
Kacie Chase	Coordinator, Global Missions Health Conference	Louisville, KY
Michael Coleman	Founder and Executive Director, Hope Inspired Ministries	Montgomery, AL
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
Dr. Tim Cowin	Lead Pastor, The Rock Church of St. Louis	St. Louis, MO
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
Frank Dimmock	Global Poverty Alleviation Catalyst, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.	Louisville, KY
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN

Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake	Westminster Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Jean Duff	President, Partnership for Faith and Development	Washington, DC
Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Rachel Held Evans	Author & Speaker	Dayton, TN
Reena Evers-Everette	Executive Director, Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute	Jackson, MS
Cathleen Falsani	Author & Religion Columnist	Laguna Beach, CA
Paul Frank, PhD	Executive Director, SIL LEAD, Inc.	Washington, DC
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 Crory Hatcher	Senior Pastor, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church	St. Louis, MO
Esther Havens	Humanitarian Photographer	Dallas, TX
Brandon Heath	Artist	Nashville, TN
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
Randy Jumper	Missions Pastor, First Assembly North Little Rock	Little Rock, AR
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
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
Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott	Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church	New Orleans, LA
Chuck Love	Lead Pastor, Beechland Baptist Church	Louisville, KY
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
Anne Lucas	Director, e3 Mission, Mobilization, & Medical	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. & Barbara Lynch	Pastor and First Lady, New Jerusalem Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
Rob Marshall	President/CEO, Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries	Birmingham, AL
Ray Martin	Emeritus Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	McLean, VA
Sarah Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN

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Tom McCloskey	Senior Pastor, First UMC	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
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Greg McMorrow, MD	Board member, Christian Flights International	Perryville, KY
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Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado	President, Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Dr. Jack Mercer	Senior Pastor, Church on the Drive	Orlando, FL
David Moberg	SVP & Group Publisher, HarperCollins Christian Publishing	Nashville, TN
Steve Moore	Chairman of the Board, The Shalom Foundation	Brentwood, TN
Elisa Morgan	President Emerita, MOPS International	Denver, CO
Ken Morris	Missions Pastor, Church of the City	Franklin, TN
Jeff Moseley	President/Founder, Fair Trade Services	Brentwood, TN
Heidi & Eric Murkoff	Author & Co-Founders, What to Expect Foundation	Los Angeles, CA
Bryant Myers, PhD	Professor of Int’l Development, Fuller Theological Seminary	Pasadena, CA
Jena Lee Nardella	Co-Founder, Blood:Water & Author	Palo Alto, CA
Jennifer Nettles	Artist (Sugarland)	Nashville, TN
Roxanne Nichols	Director of Label Operations, Provident Label Group	Franklin, TN
Christy Nockels	Artist & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Nathan Nockels	Music Producer	Franklin, TN
Paul Osteen, MD	Associate Pastor, Lakewood Church	Houston, TX
Kimberly Williams Paisley	Actor & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
J. Jeffrey Palmer	CEO, Baptist Global Response	Nashville, TN
Jackie Patillo	President, Gospel Music Association	Nashville, TN
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
Emily Chapman Richards	Vice-President/Assistant Executive Director, ShowHope	Franklin, TN
Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Raleigh, NC
Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Sacramento, CA
Doug Roe	Senior Pastor, Vineyard Church	Dayton, OH
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
Mike Shelly	Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville	Nashville, TN
Rev. Sarah Shelton	Outreach Pastor, Real Life Church	Clermont, FL
Lott Shudde	Sr. Pastor, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Angie Smith	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Anita Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
	President, Children’s AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC

Michael W. Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Shepherd Smith	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC
Durwood Snead	GlobalX: Director, North Point Community Church	Atlanta, GA
Jeff Spry	City Connections, Inc.	Little Rock, AR
Anne Stafford, MD	Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Becca Stevens	St. Augustine's Chapel; Founder, Magdalene/Thistle Farms	Nashville, TN
David Stevens, MD, MA	CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations	Bristol, TN
Curtis Stoneberger	Executive Vice-President, Mocha Club	Brentwood, TN
Andrea Summer, MD	Co-Director, International Adoption Clinic, Medical University of South Carolina	Charleston, SC
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	Christian Band	Atlanta, GA
David Vanderpool, MD	Founder, LiveBeyond	Thomazeau, Haiti
Stephaine H. Walker, MD	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University Overseer, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Health Care Ministry	Nashville, TN
Jim Wallis	President and Founder, Sojourners	Washington, DC
Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP	Executive Director, Family Health Ministries	Durham, NC
Barrett Ward	Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE	Nashville, TN
Stefanie Weiland	Executive Director, LifeNet International	Orlando, FL
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner	Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Rev. Chad Wible	Sr. Pastor, Community Covenant Church	Kirkwood, MO
Bruce Wilkinson	President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board	New York, NY
Jessica Wolstenholm	Author & Co-Founder, Gather & Grow	Brentwood, TN