



July 13, 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:

As a community of faith leaders, we write to thank you for your leadership on global food security and nutrition, and to urge you to protect critical funding for these programs in the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

We care deeply about the health of vulnerable populations worldwide, and we know that American leadership is needed now more than ever as we face an unprecedented global challenge of four potential famines, and more than 65 million displaced persons worldwide.

We are deeply concerned about the steep cuts to global food security and nutrition programs in the President's FY 2018 budget request. Specifically, the budget request calls for severe cuts to the Nutrition sub-account within the Global Health Programs of USAID and to the Feed the Future global agriculture development initiative. The budget request also eliminates all funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programs, and the PL 480 Food for Peace program. Lastly, the budget request calls for severe cuts to the International Organizations account and related multilateral funding streams, through which the U.S. government supports the critical food security and nutrition work of agencies such as the World Food Program, UNICEF, the Foreign Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Health Organization.

We applaud the recent support of your colleagues from the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for maintaining funding for PL 480 and McGovern-Dole and hope you will follow suit to ensure all our global food security and nutrition programs are similarly supported.

We understand the challenges you face within a limited budget, but we know the truly life-saving impact of U.S. investments in global food security and nutrition. As a community of faith, we are called to action to help uplift the most poor and vulnerable. Therefore, we respectfully request that you protect funding for these critical programs at the FY 2017 enacted levels. Thank you for your continued leadership and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Bell	Ministries Coordinator, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Colleen Buroughs	Vice President, Passport, Inc.	Birmingham, AL
Gary Furr, PhD	Pastor, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Anne Lucas	Director, e3 Mission, Mobilization, & Medical	Birmingham, AL
Rob Marshall	President/CEO, Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries	Birmingham, AL
Mike McBrayer	Minister, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Sarah Shelton	Sr. Pastor, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Anne Stafford, MD	Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Brandon Dasinger	Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions, Frazer United Methodist Church	Montgomery, AL
Dale Dawson	CEO, Bridge2Rwanda	Little Rock, AR
Randy Jumper	Missions Pastor, First Assembly North Little Rock	Little Rock, AR
Rev. Britt Skarda	Senior Pastor, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church	Little Rock, AR
Jeff Spry	Executive Director, City Connections, Inc.	Little Rock, AR
Christine Caine	Founder, Propel Women	Costa Mesa, CA
Kenton & Laurie Beshore	Senior Pastor, Mariners Church	Irvine, CA
Cathleen Falsani	Author & Religion Columnist	Laguna Beach, CA
Kim McManus	International Pastor, Mosaic Church	Los Angeles, CA
Heidi & Eric Murkoff	Author & Co-Founders, What to Expect Foundation	Los Angeles, CA
Jena Lee Nardella	Co-Founder, Blood:Water & Author	Palo Alto, CA
Bryant Myers, PhD	Professor of Int'l Development, Fuller Theological Seminary	Pasadena, CA
Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Sacramento, CA
Lisa Bevere	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International	Colorado Springs, CO
Rick Carter	Child Survival Program Dir., Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado	President, Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Elisa Morgan	President Emerita, MOPS International	Denver, CO
Jean Duff	President, Partnership for Faith and Development	Washington, DC
Paul Frank, PhD	Executive Director, SIL LEAD, Inc.	Washington, DC
Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe	General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society, The United Methodist Church	Washington, DC
Anita Smith	President, Children's AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC
Shepherd Smith	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC
Jim Wallis	President and Founder, Sojourners	Washington, DC
Brian McLaren	Author, Speaker, & Activist – Convergenceus.org	Marco Island, FL
Rev. John Harris	Associate Pastor, Downtown Baptist Church	Orlando, FL
Michael Hart	Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church	Orlando, FL
Grant Highnight	Senior Pastor, Central Parkway Baptist Church	Orlando, FL
Tom McCloskey	Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church	Orlando, FL
Dr. Jack Mercer	Sr. Pastor, Church on the Drive	Orlando, FL
Rev. Gabriel Salguero	President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition; Pastor, Calvario City Church	Orlando, FL
Stefanie Weiland	Executive Director, LifeNet International	Orlando, FL
Durwood Snead	GlobalX: Director, North Point Community Church	Atlanta, GA
Third Day	Christian Band	Atlanta, GA
Richard Ramsey	Outreach Pastor, North Metro Church	Marietta, GA

David Vanderpool, MD	Founder, LiveBeyond	Thomazeau, Haiti
Mark & Vickie Reddy Daphene Baines Steve Bell Lynne Hybels	Directors, The Justice Conference First Lady of Southern Baptist Church Executive Vice President, Willow Creek Association Advocate for Global Engagement, Willow Creek Community Church	Chicago, IL Cincinnati, IL Kildeer, IL South Barrington, IL
Jennifer Grant	Author & Speaker	Wheaton, IL
Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton	President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary	Indianapolis, IN
Shannon & Kevin Conforti Mike Geary Kacie Chase Kent Evans Chuck Love Josh Rouse Greg McMorro, MD	Director(s) of Family Health, Christian Flights International CEO, Lexington Leadership Foundation Coordinator, Global Missions Health Conference Executive Director, Manhood Journey Lead Pastor, Beechland Baptist Church Global Outreach Pastor, Northeast Christian Church Board member, Christian Flights International	Lexington, KY Lexington, KY Louisville, KY Louisville, KY Louisville, KY Louisville, KY Perryville, KY
Jeff Ables Robin Price Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott	Lead Pastor, Crossroads Church Outreach Director, Crossroads Church Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church	Lafayette, LA Lafayette, LA New Orleans, LA
Scott Arbeiter Tim Breene	President, World Relief CEO, World Relief	Baltimore, MD Baltimore, MD
Annette Bourland	Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan	Grand Rapids, MI
Jo Saxton	Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker	Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Chad Wible Dr. Timothy Cowin Rev. Joshua Crory Hatcher	Sr. Pastor, Community Covenant Church Lead Pastor, The Rock of St. Louis Senior Pastor, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church	Kirkwood, MO St. Louis, MO St. Louis, MO
Corinne Williams Anderson, EdD	President, American Association of University Women (AAUW-MS)	Jackson, MS
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John Rogers	Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, University Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill, NC
Christopher Ingram Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP Jeanette Fuccella Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Senior Pastor, Yates Baptist Church Executive Director, Family Health Ministries Executive Director, Hearts with Haiti Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Durham, NC Durham, NC Raleigh, NC Raleigh, NC
Bruce Wilkinson	President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board	New York, NY
Joyce Kinley	President, Church Women United State of Ohio and Church United of Greater Cincinnati Inc.	Cincinnati, OH

Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. & Barbara Lynch	Pastor and First Lady, New Jerusalem Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
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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
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Leigh Brandenburg	International Missions Team, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Emily Blackledge	President, African Leadership, Inc.	Brentwood, TN
Mike Glenn	Sr. Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church	Brentwood, TN
Natalie Grant	Artist	Brentwood, TN
Steve Moore	Chairman of the Board, The Shalom Foundation	Brentwood, TN
Jeff Moseley	President/Founder, Fair Trade Services	Brentwood, TN
Lott Shudde	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Curtis Stoneberger	Executive VP, Mocha Club	Brentwood, TN
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Steven Curtis Chapman	Artist	Franklin, TN
Chaz Corzine	Manager, The MWS Group	Franklin, TN
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Frank Dimmock	Africa Mission Specialist, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
Andrew Greer	Artist, Songwriters, & Author	Franklin, TN
Scott Hamilton	Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist & Mother	Franklin, TN
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
John Mays	Sr. VP-A&R, Centricity Music	Franklin, TN
Ken Morris	Missions Pastor, Church of the City	Franklin, TN
Christy Nockels	Artist & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Nathan Nockels	Music Producer	Franklin, TN
Kimberly Williams Paisley	Actor & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Emily Chapman Richards	Vice-President/Assistant Executive Director, ShowHope	Franklin, TN
Angie Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Michael W. Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner	Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Steve Berger	Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel	Leipers Fork, TN
Kenny & Christiev Alphin	Artist (Big & Rich)	Nashville, TN
Andi Ashworth	Editor, Art House America	Nashville, TN
Jill Boes, RN, BSN	Clinical and Outreach Director, Hope Clinic for Women	Nashville, TN
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Sheryl Crow	Artist	Nashville, TN

David Dark, PhD	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
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Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
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Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Francie Likis, DrPH, NP, CNM	Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health	Nashville, TN Sarah
Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN
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Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
Rev. Edwin Sanders II	Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church	Nashville, TN
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Debbie Taylor	Artist & Mother	Nashville, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN
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Marcus D. Holman	Missions Pastor & President of Bethel's Family Church Global Reach	Houston, TX
The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr.	Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Houston, TX
Paul Osteen, MD	Associate Pastor, Lakewood Church	Houston, TX
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health	Plano, TX
Ray Martin	Emeritus Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	McLean, VA
Jedd Medafind	President, Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)	McLean, VA
Bob Blees	Interim Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA