April 24, 2017

The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
HT-2 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
125 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Rogers; Mrs. Lowey; Mr. Graham and Mr. Leahy:

U.S. global health assistance programs have delivered dramatic results, saved millions of lives and contributed to a healthier, more stable and prosperous world. We the undersigned organizations, all committed to strengthening U.S. global health assistance, request Congress’ consideration to help end deaths from cervical cancer by integrating cervical cancer prevention and treatment into existing global health programs and platforms.

Cervical cancer, a disease that is both preventable and treatable, kills 266,000 women every year, as many as die during pregnancy and childbirth, and mostly in low- and middle-income countries. It is the most common cancer among women in 38 low- and middle-income countries. The disease heavily impacts women, their children and societies, and undermines other U.S. Government investments in global health – especially in HIV and AIDS. Women living with HIV are especially vulnerable to cervical cancer, and it makes no sense to save a woman from complications of AIDS, childbirth, or other health challenges addressed by U.S. global health programs, only to let her die from cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer prevention and treatment are proven, cost-effective U.S. global health and development interventions that reinforce the values and compassion of our country, and help address the root causes of poverty that are the source of instability in low- and middle-income countries. We request Congress to strongly consider maintaining funding for the International Affairs (150) account and request FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill language that focuses the U.S. Government’s attention on cervical cancer:

“Within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations a report on the impact of cervical cancer in priority high-prevalence, lower-income countries, together with a plan to scale up cervical cancer
We respectfully request Congress to consider including this bill language in the FY 2018 SFOPS bill. Thank you for your leadership and attention to these critically important issues. If you need additional information, or if you would like to meet with us to discuss these requests, please contact Jennie Aylward at Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon (jaylward@pinkribbonredribbon.org, 202-487-5078) or Paul Holmes at American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (paul.holmes@cancer.org, 202-585-3267).

Sincerely,

American Academy of Pediatrics
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Society for Clinical Pathology
AVAC
Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation
Center for Health and Gender Equity
Cervical Cancer-Free Coalition
Christian Connections for International Health
CureCervicalCancer
Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Global Health Council
Global Initiative Against HPV and Cervical Cancer (GIAHC)
Global Oncology
IMA World Health
Jhpiego – an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University
Management Sciences for Health
MobileODT
PATH
Pink Ribbon Red Ribbon
Population Services International
Project Concern International
Public Health Institute
RTI International
University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center
Varian
Young Professionals Chronic Disease Network

cc: Members, Senate Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Members, House Subcommittee State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs