



THE FAITH-BASED COALITION FOR
Healthy Mothers & Children
WORLDWIDE

December 1, 2014

Congressman Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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

Senator Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Senator Richard Shelby
304 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Kay Granger
1026 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairwoman Mikulski, Ranking Member Shelby, Chairwoman Granger, Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Graham:

We write to you on behalf of the Faith-Based Coalition for Healthy Mothers and Children Worldwide to thank you for your leadership in Congress in support of maternal and child health programs and to urge you to protect funding for these programs, including those that fund healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, as you finalize the FY 2015 appropriations bills.

Our coalition is comprised of advocates who are speaking out about the struggles that mothers and children in developing nations face every day. 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: 287,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 6.6 million children die before their fifth birthday each year.

We seek to galvanize faith-based leaders and their constituencies around the issues of maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) as well as healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies (HTSP) to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality.

We recognize the difficult decisions you face as you finalize funding levels, and we respectfully request that you make the Maternal and Child Health and International Family Planning accounts a priority as you decide the final FY 2015 funding levels. We have seen firsthand the life saving impacts that these programs achieve, and as people of faith we believe that we all have a duty to do what is within our power to help these women and their families to achieve their potential through improved health.

Sincerely,

Kenny Alphin	Artist (Big & Rich)	Nashville, TN
Steve Berger	Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel	Leipers Fork, TN
Annette Bourland	Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan	Grand Rapids, MI
Colleen Buroughs	Founder, Watering Malawi	Birmingham, AL
Tony Campolo, PhD	Author & Speaker, Eastern University	St. David's, PA
Jennifer Cooke	Manager, Amy Grant	Nashville, TN
Chaz Corzine	Manager, The MWS Group	Franklin, TN
Jenny Eaton Dyer	ED, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Gary L Edmonds	President/CEO, Food for the Hungry	Phoenix, AZ
Bill Frist, MD	Chairman, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Gary Furr, PhD	Pastor, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Mike Glenn	Sr. Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church	Brentwood, TN
Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Garrett Grigsby	ED, Christian Connections for International Health	Vienna, VA
Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist & Mother	Franklin, TN
Scott Hamilton	Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
Larry Hollon	General Secretary, United Methodist Communications	Nashville, TN
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Nashville, TN
Ray Martin	Emeritus ED, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder, Medical and Sexual Ethics	Plano, TX
Brian McLaren	Author & Speaker	Marco Island, FL
Santiago "Jimmy" Mellado	President, Compassion International	Colorado Springs, CO
Bill Mugford	Pastor, HIV&AIDS Initiative, Saddleback Church	Lake Forest, CA
James Nardella	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
Jena Lee Nardella	Co-Founder, Blood:Water	Nashville, TN
Jennifer Nettles	Artist (Sugarland)	Nashville, TN
Lindsey Nobles	COO, If: Gathering	Austin, TX
Kimberly Williams Paisley	Actor & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
J. Jeffrey Palmer	Executive Director, Baptist Global Response	Nashville, TN
Rev. Edwin Sanders II Sr.	Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church	
Scott Sauls	Sr. Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Dan Scott	Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville	Nashville, TN
Rev. Sarah Shelton	Sr. Pastor, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Lott Shudde	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Anita Smith	President, Childrens AIDS Fund	Washington, DC
Michael W. Smith	Artist	Franklin, TN
Shepherd Smith	President, International Youth Development	Washington, DC
David Stevens, MD, M.A.	CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations	Bristol, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TNY
Third Day	Christian Band	Atlanta, GA
Larry Thompson	Pastor, First Baptist Church Fort Lauderdale	Fort Lauderdale, FL
Sten Vermund, MD, PhD	Director, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health	Nashville, TN
Jim Wallis	President and Founder, Sojourners	Washington, DC
John Walter	President, African Leadership	Brentwood, TN
Stefanie Weiland	Executive Director, LifeNet International	Orlando, FL