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CCIH Reaction to the FY24 Senate Allocation for Foreign Assistance

Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) Executive Director Doug Fountain released the following statement on the Senate markup of the State and Foreign Operations bill.

We understand that hard choices had to be made and that the Senate allocations for the State and Foreign Operations bill are constrained by the bipartisan agreement that caps spending levels near their current levels.

However, as we have seen most recently with COVID-19, as well as other pandemics including Ebola and HIV/AIDS, investments in global health provide stability, security, and economic benefits that far exceed their initial cost. When the U.S. leads, the world will follow, and when the U.S. recedes from its global leadership position of promoting human dignity, the world will likewise follow suit.

As nations continue to recover from COVID-19, we all understand how vital it is to improve readiness of health systems for future disease threats; likewise, recent conflicts and crises threaten the health of vast populations in places like Haiti, Ukraine, and the Horn of Africa, we must continue to demonstrate the power of hope and determination, and to provide the resources to address these global challenges.

CCIH also is supportive that the Senate did not include harmful policy riders such as the expanded Mexico City Policy language. CCIH strongly supports family planning programs to protect the health of mothers and babies, and are concerned such riders would prevent organizations from implementing life-saving family planning care, leading to an increase in maternal and child mortality. CCIH believes that family planning enables couples to determine the number and timing of pregnancies, including the voluntary use of methods for preventing pregnancy – not including abortion – harmonious with their values and religious beliefs.

It is our hope that when Senate and House leaders come together to negotiate the final spending levels for FY24, they will view these investments as not only the correct moral thing to do, but as a way to promote U.S. values, and to allow for communities to address the health challenges in a sustainable way.

Christian Connections for International Health (CCIH) is a network of Christian organizations and individuals committed to advancing health and wholeness.