

March 13th, 2026

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
H-307 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member, Appropriations Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Tom Cole and Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro,

As faith-based organizations that believe in the dignity and value of every human life, we write to you with our strong support for family planning and reproductive health funding in the FY27 House National Security, Department of State and Related Programs (NSRP) funding bill as it comes before the full committee.

Family Planning and Reproductive Health (FP/RH) programming lowers maternal mortality and morbidity rates as well as infant and child death rates. Globally, one-third of women are affected by illness or death due to poor reproductive health. Every year more than half a million women die in childbirth, with over 95% of them in Africa and Asia. The deaths of these women leave behind children that are more vulnerable to disease and death themselves.

The use of voluntary family planning, which gives women and couples the tools to time and space their pregnancies in ways that are consistent with their faith and culture, allows families to have the number of children they wish to have in the healthiest and safest way possible. By spacing pregnancies, women ensure they can recover from a prior pregnancy and that they can breastfeed. Women globally face health challenges such as anemia and undernutrition, making the ability to space pregnancies critical so that each child they have is healthy and can thrive. Research published in the International Journal of Gynecology & Obstetrics found that if birth intervals in developing countries were extended to at least 36 months, approximately 1.6 million under-five deaths could be prevented annually.

FP/RH funding also strengthens the U.S. investment in HIV prevention and plays a role in reducing mother to child transmission of HIV. When an HIV-positive woman has a high viral load, she is significantly more likely to transmit the virus to her child, and access to family planning at that critical time can be lifesaving. Educating women about their reproductive health is equally vital to ensuring they understand how HIV and other sexually transmitted infections are transmitted, empowering them to protect themselves and their families from potentially deadly diseases.

As you may know, family planning funding in NSRP has not increased for more than a decade, meaning that it has not kept pace with need, inflationary increases, or improvements in family planning methods. These programs have a life-saving impact, and some of our organizations bring direct experience delivering FP/RH programs in the field as implementing partners of the U.S. government.

Enabling couples and individuals to determine whether, when, and how often to have children is fundamental to safe motherhood, healthy families, and prosperous communities — and to the U.S. national interest in stable, self-sufficient partner nations. We urge you to support robust funding for the Family Planning and Reproductive Health account within Global Health Programs.

Sincerely,



cc. Diaz-Balart, Frankel