

November 20, 2015

Congressman Hal Rogers

2406 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Senator Thad Cochran

110 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C., 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham

437 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Congresswoman Kay Granger

1026 Longworth 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, DC 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy

290 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

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

Thank you for your leadership in Congress in support of maternal and child health programs serving the most vulnerable. As faith-based organizations and individuals who view these programs as a moral responsibility of the United States, we are grateful for your commitment to saving the lives of women and children around the world.

As you finalize the FY 2016 appropriations process, we respectfully request that you fund international family planning at the level included in the Senate State Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

We seek to galvanize faith-based leaders and their constituencies around the issues of maternal, newborn and child health, including the healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality. 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: 303,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 5.9 million children die before their fifth birthday each year.

We recognize the difficult decisions you face in a constrained budget environment, but we know the truly life-saving impact of U.S. investments in women and children. We respectfully request that you make U.S. programs for global maternal, newborn, and child health and family planning a priority as you finalize your FY 2016 Appropriations bills.

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

Andi Ashworth Editor, Art House America Nashville, TN

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Christine Caine Founder, Propel Women Costa Mesa, CA

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Bill Frist , MD Chairman, Hope Through Healing Hands Nashville, TN

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Christian Connections for International Health

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Scott Hamilton Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist Franklin, TN

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Jo Saxton Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker

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