

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

Walter August, Jr. Author, Sr. Pastor & Chairman of Bethel’s Family Church Houston, TX

Stephan Bauman CEO and President, World Relief Baltimore, MD

Steve Berger Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel Leipers Fork, TN

Chris Bolton Former CEO, Blood:Water Nashville, TN

Annette Bourland Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan Grand Rapids, MI

Colleen Buroughs Founder, Watering Malawi Birmingham, AL

Christine Caine Founder, Propel Women Costa Mesa, CA

Tony Campolo, PhD Author & Speaker, Eastern University St. David’s, PA

Rick Carter Child Survival Program Dir., Compassion International Colorado Springs, CO

Mary Beth Chapman Author Franklin, TN

Steven Curtis Chapman Artist Franklin, TN

Jennifer Cooke Manager, Amy Grant Nashville, TN

Chaz Corzine Manager, The MWS Group Franklin, TN

Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society,

 The United Methodist Church Washington, DC

Jenny Eaton Dyer Executive Director, 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

Natalie Grant Artist Brentwood, TN

Garrett Grigsby Executive Director, Sterling, VA

 Christian Connections for International Health

Tracie Hamilton Philanthropist & Mother Franklin, TN

Scott Hamilton Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist Franklin, TN

Dan Haseltine Artist, Jars of Clay Franklin, TN

Esther Havens Humanitarian Photographer Dallas, TX

Marcus D. Holman Missions Pastor & President of Bethel’s Family Church

 Global Reach Houston, TX

Velvet Kelm President, The {M}edia Collective Franklin, TN

Terry Laura, RN, MPH Health Technical Advisor, Compassion International Colorado Springs, CO

Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church New Orleans, LA

Charlie Lowell Artist, Jars of Clay Nashville, TN

Ray Martin Emeritus Executive Director,

 Christian Connections for nternational Health McLean, VA

Mike McBrayer Minister, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church Birmingham, AL

Jennifer McClure Assistant Professor of Religion, Samford University Birmingham, AL

Joe McIlhaney, MD Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health Plano, TX

Brian McLaren Author & Speaker Marco Island, FL

Santiago “Jimmy” Mellado President, Compassion International Colorado Springs, CO

David Moberg SVP & Group Publishing, HarperCollins Christian Publishing Nashville, TN

Jena Lee Nardella Co-Founder, Blood:Water &Author Nashville, TN

Jennifer Nettles Artist (Sugarland) Nashville, TN

Lindsey Nobles COO, If: Gathering Austin, TX

Christy Nockels Artist & Speaker Franklin, TN

Nathan Nockels Music Producer Franklin, TN

Paul Osteen, MD Associate Pastor, Lakewood Church Houston, TX

Kimberly Williams Paisley Actor & Philanthropist Franklin, TN

J. Jeffrey Palmer Executive Director, Baptist Global Response Nashville, TN

Charlie Peacock Music Producer & Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University Nashville, TN

Rev. Edwin Sanders II Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church Nashville, TN

Scott Sauls Sr. Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church Nashville, TN

Jo Saxton Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker

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, Children’s AIDS Fund International Washington, DC

Michael W. Smith Artist Franklin, TN

Shepherd Smith President, Institute for Youth Development Washington, DC

Anne Stafford, MD Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham Birmingham, AL

Richard Stearns President, World Vision US Federal Way, WA

Rev. Becca Stevens St. Augustine’s Chapel; Founder, Magdalene/Thistle Farms Nashville, TN

David Stevens, MD, MA CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations Bristol, TN

Sherry Surratt CEO and President, MOPS International Colorado Springs, CO

Cathy Taylor Dean & Professor, Belmont University Nashville, TN

Steve Taylor Recording Artist & Filmmaker Nashville, TN

Third Day Christian Band Atlanta, GA

David Vanderpool, MD Founder, LiveBeyond Thomazeau, Haiti

Stephaine H. Walker, MD Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University

 Overseer, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Health Care Ministry Nashville, TN

Jim Wallis President and Founder, Sojourners Washington, DC

Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP Executive Director, Family Health Ministries Durham, NC

John Walter President, African Leadership Brentwood, TN

Stefanie Weiland Executive Director, LifeNet International Orlando, FL

Jessica Wolstenholm Author & Co-Founder, Grace for Moms Nashville, TN