



November 20, 2015

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

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

Senator Thad Cochran
110 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C., 20510

Senator Barbara Mikulski
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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

Senator Patrick Leahy
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, 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, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA
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 International 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