

March 13, 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:

We write to you on behalf of the Faith-Based Coalition for Healthy Mothers and Children Worldwide to thank you for your ongoing leadership in Congress in support of global maternal and child health programs. Specifically, we request that you provide robust funding in the FY 2016 appropriations process for U.S. programs that support maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) and healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies (HTSP) with existing legislative safeguards.

Our coalition seeks to galvanize faith-based leaders and their constituencies around the issues of MNCH, including HTSP, 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: 289,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 6.3 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 develop 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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Steve Berger Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel Leipers Fork, TN

Chris Bolton CEO, Blood:Water Nashville, TN

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

Colleen Buroughs Founder, Watering Malawi Birmingham, AL

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

Mary Beth Chapman Author Brentwood, TN

Steven Curtis Chapman Artist Brentwood, TN

Jennifer Cooke Manager, Amy Grant Nashville, TN

Chaz Corzine Manager, The MWS Group Franklin, TN

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

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Mike Glenn Sr. Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church Brentwood, TN

Amy Grant Artist Nashville, TN

Garrett Grigsby Executive Director, Vienna, VA

 Christian Connections for International Health

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Esther Havens Humanitarian Photographer Dallas, TX

Larry Hollon General Secretary, United Methodist Communications Nashville, TN

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

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Dan Scott Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville Nashville, TN

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Steve Taylor Recording Artist & Filmmaker Nashville, TN

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