

December 1, 2014

Congressman Hal Rogers

2406 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515

Senator Barbara Mikulski

503 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C., 20510

Senator Patrick Leahy

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 Richard Shelby

304 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

Senator Lindsey Graham

290 Russell Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

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

We write to you on behalf of the Faith-Based Coalition for Healthy Mothers and Children Worldwide to thank you for your leadership in Congress in support of maternal and child health programs and to urge you to protect funding for these programs, including those that fund healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies, as you finalize the FY 2015 appropriations bills.

Our coalition is comprised of advocates who are speaking out about the struggles that mothers and children in developing nations face every day. 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: 287,000 women in developing nations die from preventable complications during childbirth, and 6.6 million children die before their fifth birthday each year.

We seek to galvanize faith-based leaders and their constituencies around the issues of maternal, newborn, and child health (MNCH) as well as healthy timing and spacing of pregnancies (HTSP) to improve maternal health and reduce child mortality.

We recognize the difficult decisions you face as you finalize funding levels, and we respectfully request that you make the Maternal and Child Health and International Family Planning accounts a priority as you decide the final FY 2015 funding levels. We have seen firsthand the life saving impacts that these programs achieve, and 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

Steve Berger Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel Leipers Fork, 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

Jennifer Cooke Manager, Amy Grant Nashville, TN

Chaz Corzine Manager, The MWS Group Franklin, TN

Jenny Eaton Dyer ED, 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

Garrett Grigsby ED, Christian Connections for International Health Vienna, VA

Tracie Hamilton Philanthropist & Mother Franklin, TN

Scott Hamilton Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist Franklin, TN

Dan Haseltine Artist, Jars of Clay Franklin, TN

Larry Hollon General Secretary, United Methodist Communications Nashville, TN Velvet Kelm President, The {M}edia Collective Franklin, TN

Charlie Lowell Artist, Jars of Clay Nashville, TN

Ray Martin Emeritus ED, Christian Connections for International Health Sterling, VA

Joe McIlhaney, MD Founder, Medical and Sexual Ethics Plano, TX

Brian McLaren Author & Speaker Marco Island, FL

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

Bill Mugford Pastor, HIV&AIDS Initiative, Saddleback Church Lake Forest, CA

James Nardella Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance Nashville, TN

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

Jennifer Nettles Artist (Sugarland) Nashville, TN

Lindsey Nobles COO, If: Gathering Austin, TX

Kimberly Williams Paisley Actor & Philanthropist Franklin, TN

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

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

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

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, Childrens AIDS Fund Washington, DC

Michael W. Smith Artist Franklin, TN

Shepherd Smith President, International Youth Development Washington, DC

David Stevens, MD, M.A. CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations Bristol, TN

Steve Taylor Recording Artist & Filmmaker Nashville, TNY

Third Day Christian Band Atlanta, GA

Larry Thompson Pastor, First Baptist Church Fort Lauderdale Fort Lauderdale, FL

Sten Vermund, MD, PhD Director, Vanderbilt Institute for Global Health Nashville, TN

Jim Wallis President and Founder, Sojourners Washington, DC

John Walter President, African Leadership Brentwood, TN

Stefanie Weiland Executive Director, LifeNet International Orlando, FL