



September 22, 2016

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

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Cochran, and Ranking Member Mikulski:

Thank you for your leadership 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 your committees consider the FY 2017 State and Foreign Operations Appropriations accounts during conference, we write to express our support for the Senate level of funding for international family planning.

As members of the *Faith-Based Coalition for Healthy Mothers and Children Worldwide*, a network of advocates speaking out about the struggles that mothers and children in developing nations face daily, we know that an investment in family planning is an investment that saves lives, particularly in areas of conflict and instability.

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. In many cases these mothers and children are without a home or the resources needed for basic care due to conflict, as women and girls make up 80 percent of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees globally.

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. As people of faith we believe that we all have a duty to do what is within our power to help uplift these women and their families to flourish through improved health. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kenny & Christiev Alphin  
Andi Ashworth  
Walter August, Jr.  
Daphene Baines

Artist (Big & Rich)  
Editor, Art House America  
Author, Sr. Pastor & Chairman of Bethel's Family Church  
Ministry Assistant, Christian Education,  
Southern Baptist Church  
CEO and President, World Relief  
Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel

Nashville, TN  
Nashville, TN  
Houston, TX  
Cincinnati, OH  
Baltimore, MD  
Leipers Fork, TN

Kenton & Laurie Beshore	Senior Pastor, Mariners Church	Irvine, CA
Lisa Bevere	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International	Colorado Springs, CO
Chris Bolton	Former CEO, Blood:Water	Nashville, TN
Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton	President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary	Indianapolis, IN
Annette Bourland	Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan	Grand Rapids, MI
Leigh Brandenburg	International Missions Team, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Dale Brantner	President and CEO, CURE International	Lemoyne, PA
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
Fr. Joe Carnes Ananias	Former Associate Rector, Christ Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
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. Beverly Crowetipton	Senior Pastor, Fairview United Methodist Church	Greenville, SC
David Dark	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Chris Devaney	Executive Director, Children's Nutrition Program in Haiti	Chattanooga, TN
Frank Dimmock	Global Poverty Alleviation Catalyst, Presbyterian Church U.S.A.	Louisville, KY
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
Jean Duff	President, Partnership for Faith and Development	Washington, DC
Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Gary L. Edmonds	President/CEO, Food for the Hungry	Phoenix, AZ
Rachel Held Evans	Author & Speaker	Dayton, TN
Bill Frist, MD	Chairman, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Jeanette Fuccella	Executive Director, Hearts with Haiti	Raleigh, NC
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
Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe	General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society, The United Methodist Church	Washington, DC
Marcus D. Holman	Missions Pastor & President of Bethel's Family Church Global Reach	Houston, TX
Lynne Hybels	Advocate for Global Engagement, Willow Creek Community Church	South Barrington, IL
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
Joyce Kinley	President, Church Women United State of Ohio and Church United of Greater Cincinnati Inc.	Cincinnati, OH

The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr.	Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Houston, TX
Francie Likis, DrPH, NP, CNM	Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health	Nashville, TN
Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott	Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church	New Orleans, LA
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Nashville, TN
Anne Lucas	Director, e3 Mission, Mobilization, & Medical	Birmingham, AL
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. & Barbara Lynch	Pastor and First Lady, New Jerusalem Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
Rob Marshall	President/CEO, Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries	Birmingham, AL
Ray Martin	Emeritus Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	McLean, VA
Sarah Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN
Mike McBrayer	Minister, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health	Plano, TX
Brian McLaren	Author & Speaker	Marco Island, FL
Greg McMorrow, MD	Board member, Christian Flights International	Perryville, KY
Jedd Medafind	President, Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)	McLean, VA
David Moberg	SVP & Group Publisher, HarperCollins Christian Publishing	Nashville, TN
Elisa Morgan	President Emerita, MOPS International	Colorado Springs, CO
Ken Morris	Missions Pastor, Church of the City	Franklin, TN
Jeff Moseley	President/Founder, Fair Trade Services	Brentwood, TN
Jena Lee Nardella	Co-Founder, Blood:Water & Author	Palo Alto, CA
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
Jackie Patillo	President, Gospel Music Association	Nashville, TN
Charlie Peacock	Music Producer & Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University	Nashville, TN
Mark & Vickie Reddy	Directors, The Justice Conference	Chicago, IL
Dr. Gus Reyes	Director, Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists	Austin, TX
Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Raleigh, NC
Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Sacramento, CA
Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
John Rogers	Associate Campus Minister, University Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill, NC
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	Minneapolis, MN
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
Angie Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Anita Smith	President, Children's AIDS Fund International	Washington, DC
Michael W. Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Shepherd Smith	President, Institute for Youth Development	Washington, DC

Durwood Snead	Director of GlobalX, North Point Community Church	Atlanta, GA
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
Jason Surratt	Pastor of Stewardship and Global Missions, Seacoast Church	Charleston, SC
Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN	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
Barrett Ward	Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE	Brentwood, TN
Stefanie Weiland	Executive Director, LifeNet International	Orlando, FL
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner	Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Bruce Wilkinson	President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board	New York, NY
Jessica Wolstenholm	Author & Co-Founder, Grace for Moms	Brentwood, TN