



July 14, 2017

Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen
2306 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

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

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

Senator Patrick Leahy
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Congressman Hal Rogers
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Senator Lindsey Graham
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Rogers, Chairman Cochran, Ranking Member Leahy, and Chairman Graham:

As a community of faith leaders, we write to thank you for your leadership on global food security and nutrition, and to urge you to protect critical funding for these programs in the FY 2018 State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill.

We care deeply about the health of vulnerable populations worldwide, and we know that American leadership is needed now more than ever as we face an unprecedented global challenge of four potential famines, and more than 65 million displaced persons worldwide.

We are deeply concerned about the steep cuts to global food security and nutrition programs in the President's FY 2018 budget request. Specifically, the budget request calls for severe cuts to the Nutrition sub-account within the Global Health Programs of USAID and to the Feed the Future global agriculture development initiative. The budget request also eliminates all funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Programs, and the PL 480 Food for Peace program. Lastly, the budget request calls for severe cuts to the International Organizations account and related multilateral funding streams, through which the U.S. government supports the critical food security and nutrition work of agencies such as the World Food Program, UNICEF, the Foreign Agriculture Organization, the International Fund for Agriculture Development and the World Health Organization.

We applaud the recent support of your colleagues from the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee for maintaining funding for PL 480 and McGovern-Dole and hope you will follow suit to ensure all our global food security and nutrition programs are similarly supported.

We understand the challenges you face within a limited budget, but we know the truly life-saving impact of U.S. investments in global food security and nutrition. As a community of faith, we are called to action to help uplift the most poor and vulnerable. Therefore, we respectfully request that you protect funding for these critical programs at the FY 2017 enacted levels. Thank you for your continued leadership and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taylor Bell	Ministries Coordinator, Baptist Church of the Covenant	Birmingham, AL
Colleen Buroughs	Vice President, Passport, Inc.	Birmingham, AL
Gary Furr, PhD	Pastor, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL
Anne Lucas	Director, e3 Mission, Mobilization, & Medical	Birmingham, AL
Rob Marshall	President/CEO, Alabama Baptist Children's Homes & Family Ministries	Birmingham, AL
Mike McBrayer	Minister, Vestavia Hills Baptist Church	Birmingham, AL

Rev. Sarah Shelton Anne Stafford, MD Rev. Brandon Dasinger	Sr. Pastor, Baptist Church of the Covenant Pediatrician, University of Alabama-Birmingham Teaching Pastor and Director of Missions, Frazer United Methodist Church	Birmingham, AL Birmingham, AL Montgomery, AL
Dale Dawson Randy Jumper Rev. Britt Skarda Jeff Spry	CEO, Bridge2Rwanda Missions Pastor, First Assembly North Little Rock Senior Pastor, Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church Executive Director, City Connections, Inc.	Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR Little Rock, AR
Christine Caine Kenton & Laurie Beshore Cathleen Falsani Kim McManus Heidi & Eric Murkoff Jena Lee Nardella Bryant Myers, PhD Dr. Samuel Rodriguez	Founder, Propel Women Senior Pastor, Mariners Church Author & Religion Columnist International Pastor, Mosaic Church Author & Co-Founders, What to Expect Foundation Co-Founder, Blood:Water & Author Professor of Int'l Development, Fuller Theological Seminary President, National Hispanic Christian Leadership Conference	Costa Mesa, CA Irvine, CA Laguna Beach, CA Los Angeles, CA Los Angeles, CA Palo Alto, CA Pasadena, CA Sacramento, CA
Lisa Bevere Rick Carter Elisa Morgan	Author, Speaker & Co-Founder, Messenger International Child Survival Program Dir., Compassion International President Emerita, MOPS International	Colorado Springs, CO Colorado Springs, CO Denver, CO
Jean Duff Paul Frank, PhD Rev. Dr. Susan Henry-Crowe	President, Partnership for Faith and Development Executive Director, SIL LEAD, Inc. General Secretary, General Board of Church & Society, The United Methodist Church	Washington, DC Washington, DC Washington, DC
Anita Smith Shepherd Smith Jim Wallis	President, Children's AIDS Fund International President, Institute for Youth Development President and Founder, Sojourners	Washington, DC Washington, DC Washington, DC
Brian McLaren Rev. John Harris Michael Hart Grant Highnight Tom McCloskey Dr. Jack Mercer Rev. Gabriel Salguero	Author, Speaker, & Activist – Convergenceus.org Associate Pastor, Downtown Baptist Church Associate Pastor, University Presbyterian Church Senior Pastor, Central Parkway Baptist Church Senior Pastor, First United Methodist Church Sr. Pastor, Church on the Drive President, National Latino Evangelical Coalition; Pastor, Calvario City Church	Marco Island, FL Orlando, FL Orlando, FL Orlando, FL Orlando, FL Orlando, FL Orlando, FL
Stefanie Weiland	Executive Director, LifeNet International	Orlando, FL
Durwood Snead Third Day Richard Ramsey	GlobalX: Director, North Point Community Church Christian Band Outreach Pastor, North Metro Church	Atlanta, GA Atlanta, GA Marietta, GA
David Vanderpool, MD	Founder, LiveBeyond	Thomazeau, Haiti
Mark & Vickie Reddy Daphne Baines Steve Bell Lynne Hybels Jennifer Grant	Directors, The Justice Conference First Lady of Southern Baptist Church Executive Vice President, Willow Creek Association Advocate for Global Engagement, Willow Creek Community Church Author & Speaker	Chicago, IL Cincinnati, IL Kildeer, IL South Barrington, IL Wheaton, IL

Heloise Maconochie, PhD	Visiting Scholar, Early Childhood Education and Care, Indiana University Purdue University Fort Wayne	Fort Wayne, IN
Dr. Matthew Myer Boulton	President and Professor of Theology, Christian Theological Seminary	Indianapolis, IN
Shannon & Kevin Conforti	Director(s) of Family Health, Christian Flights International	Lexington, KY
Mike Geary	CEO, Lexington Leadership Foundation	Lexington, KY
Kacie Chase	Coordinator, Global Missions Health Conference	Louisville, KY
Kent Evans	Executive Director, Manhood Journey	Louisville, KY
Chuck Love	Lead Pastor, Beechland Baptist Church	Louisville, KY
Josh Rouse	Global Outreach Pastor, Northeast Christian Church	Louisville, KY
Greg McMorrow, MD	Board member, Christian Flights International	Perryville, KY
Jeff Ables	Lead Pastor, Crossroads Church	Lafayette, LA
Robin Price	Outreach Director, Crossroads Church	Lafayette, LA
Rev. Elizabeth Mangham Lott	Sr. Pastor, St. Charles Baptist Church	New Orleans, LA
Scott Arbeiter	President, World Relief	Baltimore, MD
Tim Breene	CEO, World Relief	Baltimore, MD
Annette Bourland	Sr. VP & Group Publisher, Zondervan	Grand Rapids, MI
Jo Saxton	Director, 3DM; Author & Speaker	Minneapolis, MN
Rev. Chad Wible	Sr. Pastor, Community Covenant Church	Kirkwood, MO
Dr. Timothy Cowin	Lead Pastor, The Rock of St. Louis	St. Louis, MO
Rev. Joshua Crory Hatcher	Senior Pastor, Historic Trinity Lutheran Church	St. Louis, MO
Corinne Williams Anderson, EdD	President, American Association of University Women (AAUW-MS)	Jackson, MS
Rims and Judy Barber	Mississippi Human Services Coalition	Jackson, MS
Sue Allen	Coordinator, Social Justice Ministry	Starkville, MS
Kay Brocato, PhD	Associate Professor, Mississippi State University	Starkville, MS
John Rogers	Associate Pastor for Campus Ministry, University Presbyterian Church	Chapel Hill, NC
Christopher Ingram	Senior Pastor, Yates Baptist Church	Durham, NC
Kathy Walmer, MSN, CPNP	Executive Director, Family Health Ministries	Durham, NC
Jeanette Fuccella	Executive Director, Hearts with Haiti	Raleigh, NC
Marlene Rickert, FNP-BC	Medical Director, Hope for Haiti Foundation	Raleigh, NC
Bruce Wilkinson	President & CEO, Catholic Medical Missions Board	New York, NY
Joyce Kinley	President, Church Women United State of Ohio and Church United of Greater Cincinnati Inc.	Cincinnati, OH
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr. & Barbara Lynch	Pastor and First Lady, New Jerusalem Baptist Church	Cincinnati, OH
Dr. William "Hess" Hester	Senior Pastor, Southern Hills Baptist Church	Tulsa, OK
Rev. David Wiggs	Senior Pastor, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church	Tulsa, OK
Dale Brantner	President and CEO, CURE International	Lemoyne, PA
Tony Campolo, PhD	Co-Founder, Red Letter Christians	St. Davids, PA

Andrea Summer, MD	Co-Director, International Adoption Clinic, Medical University of South Carolina	Charleston, SC
Jason Surratt	Pastor of Stewardship and Global Missions, Seacoast Church	Charleston, SC
Rev. Beverly Crowe-Tipton	Senior Pastor, Fairview United Methodist Church	Greenville, SC
Fr. Joe Carnes Ananias	Former Associate Rector, Christ Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Leigh Brandenburg	International Missions Team, Mount Pleasant Presbyterian Church	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Emily Blackledge	President, African Leadership, Inc.	Brentwood, TN
Mike Glenn	Sr. Pastor, Brentwood Baptist Church	Brentwood, TN
Natalie Grant	Artist	Brentwood, TN
Steve Moore	Chairman of the Board, The Shalom Foundation	Brentwood, TN
Jeff Moseley	President/Founder, Fair Trade Services	Brentwood, TN
Lott Shudde	Manager, Third Day	Brentwood, TN
Curtis Stoneberger	Executive VP, Mocha Club	Brentwood, TN
Jessica Wolstenholm	Author & Co-Founder, Grace for Moms	Brentwood, TN
David Stevens, MD, MA	CEO, Christian Medical and Dental Associations	Bristol, TN
Chris Devaney	Executive Director, Children's Nutrition Program of Haiti	Chattanooga, TN
Rachel Held Evans	Author & Speaker	Dayton, TN
Mary Beth Chapman	Author	Franklin, TN
Steven Curtis Chapman	Artist	Franklin, TN
Chaz Corzine	Manager, The MWS Group	Franklin, TN
Ian Morgan Cron	Author & Episcopal Priest	Franklin, TN
Frank Dimmock	Africa Mission Specialist, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Melinda Doolittle	Artist	Franklin, TN
Senator Bill Frist, MD	Founder & Chair, Hope Through Healing Hands	Franklin, TN
Andrew Greer	Artist, Songwriters, & Author	Franklin, TN
Scott Hamilton	Olympic Gold Medalist & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Tracie Hamilton	Philanthropist & Mother	Franklin, TN
Dan Haseltine	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
Velvet Kelm	President, The {M}edia Collective	Franklin, TN
Charlie Lowell	Artist, Jars of Clay	Franklin, TN
John Mays	Sr. VP-A&R, Centricity Music	Franklin, TN
Ken Morris	Missions Pastor, Church of the City	Franklin, TN
Christy Nockels	Artist & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Nathan Nockels	Music Producer	Franklin, TN
Kimberly Williams Paisley	Actor & Philanthropist	Franklin, TN
Emily Chapman Richards	Vice-President/Assistant Executive Director, ShowHope	Franklin, TN
Angie Smith	Author & Speaker	Franklin, TN
Michael W. Smith	Singer/Songwriter	Franklin, TN
Rev. Dr. Rob Weingartner	Executive Director, The Outreach Foundation	Franklin, TN
Steve Berger	Sr. Pastor, Grace Chapel	Leipers Fork, TN
Kenny & Christiev Alphin	Artist (Big & Rich)	Nashville, TN
Andi Ashworth	Editor, Art House America	Nashville, TN
Jill Boes, RN, BSN	Clinical and Outreach Director, Hope Clinic for Women	Nashville, TN
Jennifer Cooke	Manager, Amy Grant	Nashville, TN
Sheryl Crow	Artist	Nashville, TN
David Dark, PhD	Author, Professor of Religious Studies, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Rev. Dr. Donovan Drake	Westminster Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Jenny Eaton Dyer, PhD	Executive Director, Hope Through Healing Hands	Nashville, TN
Amy Grant	Artist	Nashville, TN
Francie Likis, DrPH, NP, CNM	Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Midwifery & Women's Health	Nashville, TN
Sarah Masen	Artist	Nashville, TN
David Moberg	SVP & Group Publisher, HarperCollins Christian Publishing	Nashville, TN

Jennifer Nettles	Artist (Sugarland)	Nashville, TN
J. Jeffrey Palmer	CEO, Baptist Global Response	Nashville, TN
Jackie Patillo	President, Gospel Music Association	Nashville, TN
Charlie Peacock	Music Producer & Artist-in-Residence, Lipscomb University	Nashville, TN
Anna Phillips	Development Director, Bridge2Rwanda	Nashville, TN
Ash Rogers	Executive Director, Lwala Community Alliance	Nashville, TN
Rev. Edwin Sanders II	Sr. Servant, Metropolitan Interdenominational Church	Nashville, TN
Scott Sauls	Sr. Pastor, Christ Presbyterian Church	Nashville, TN
Dan Scott	Sr. Pastor, Christ Church Nashville	Nashville, TN
Rev. Becca Stevens	St. Augustine's Chapel; Founder, Magdalene/Thistle Farms	Nashville, TN
Cathy Taylor, DrPH, MSN, RN	Dean & Professor, Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Debbie Taylor	Artist & Mother	Nashville, TN
Steve Taylor	Recording Artist & Filmmaker	Nashville, TN
Stephaine H. Walker, MD	Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Vanderbilt University; Overseer, Mt. Zion Baptist Church Health Care Ministry	Nashville, TN
Barrett Ward	Founder & CEO, Live FashionABLE	Nashville, TN
Dr. Gus Reyes	Director, Christian Life Commission, Texas Baptists	Austin, TX
Esther Havens	Humanitarian Photographer	Dallas, TX
Walter August, Jr.	Author, Sr. Pastor & Chairman of Bethel's Family Church	Houston, TX
Marcus D. Holman	Missions Pastor & President of Bethel's Family Church Global Reach	Houston, TX
The Rev. Dr. Russ Levenson, Jr.	Rector, St. Martin's Episcopal Church	Houston, TX
Paul Osteen, MD	Associate Pastor, Lakewood Church	Houston, TX
Joe McIlhaney, MD	Founder and Chair, The Medical Institute for Sexual Health	Plano, TX
Ray Martin	Emeritus Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	McLean, VA
Jedd Medafind	President, Christian Alliance for Orphans (CAFO)	McLean, VA
Bob Blees	Interim Executive Director, Christian Connections for International Health	Sterling, VA