

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2026

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide robust funding for Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health (MCH), which includes funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance within the Global Health Programs account.

We appreciate this Committee's long-standing support for life-saving global nutrition and maternal and child health investments. Since 2000, U.S. supported programs have contributed to a 58 percent decline in under-five child mortality and a 42 percent decline in maternal mortality in priority countries. However, progress has slowed over the past decade as funding stagnated, and last year marked the first increase in global under-five deaths in decades. Today, 4.8 million children under five die annually from largely preventable and treatable causes, with malnutrition underlying nearly half of these deaths. Nearly 260,000 women die each year from preventable pregnancy-related causes. Sustained U.S. investment is critical to reversing these trends and continuing progress toward ending preventable maternal and child deaths.

The MCH account supports the delivery of cost-effective, proven services in countries bearing the highest burden of preventable maternal and child deaths. Over the past decade, U.S. bilateral MCH programs have helped save more than 6 million lives, enabled nearly 68 million women to give birth in a health facility, reached over 55 million newborns with postnatal care, provided almost 140 million treatments for childhood diarrhea and pneumonia, and trained more than 14 million health workers.

Strong MCH and nutrition funding advances U.S. strategic interests by promoting stability, strengthening partner economies, and reinforcing accountable, country-led health systems. The 2025 America First Global Health Strategy emphasizes these priorities and must build on the decades of progress.

A critical portion of the MCH account supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Since 2000, Gavi has helped vaccinate more than 1.2 billion children and prevented nearly 21 million future deaths. In 2024, nearly all Gavi-supported countries met their vaccine co-financing obligations, and 55 vaccine programs are now fully self-financed by partner governments, demonstrating sustainability and country ownership. As the world's leading purchaser of U.S.-produced vaccines, Gavi also supports American manufacturing jobs and helps prevent outbreaks from reaching U.S. shores, strengthening global health security. Moreover, by averting outbreaks from spreading to the U.S., Gavi's work prevents expensive public health crises for Americans.¹

The Nutrition account targets the first 1,000 days, from pregnancy to a child's second birthday, when interventions have the greatest lifelong impact. This account supports a targeted set of high-impact interventions that can prevent the worst effects of severe malnutrition. In 2023, U.S. bilateral nutrition programs reached more than 28 million children and 11 million pregnant women with high-impact interventions such as prenatal supplementation, breastfeeding support, vitamin A distribution, and therapeutic foods (RUTF) for severely malnourished children. These children are much more likely to have weakened immune systems and are at risk of permanent physical and mental stunting, which prevents them from reaching their full educational, social, and earning potential. These investments prevent long-term physical and cognitive stunting and reduce the global economic burden of malnutrition, estimated at \$3.5 trillion annually.

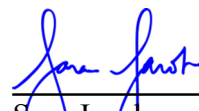
Full funding of the MCH and Nutrition accounts is critical for saving lives and reaching the U.S. Government's goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths. To improve global maternal and child health and nutrition, we respectfully urge you to provide robust funding for these accounts within Global Health programs.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in this global effort to save lives.

Sincerely,



Brian K. Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

¹ UNICEF, Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2022, accessed February 1, 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/trends-in-maternal-mortality-2000-to-2020/>



Maria Elvira Salazar
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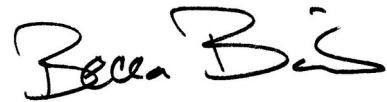
Darren Soto
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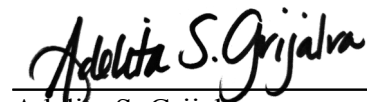
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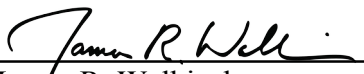
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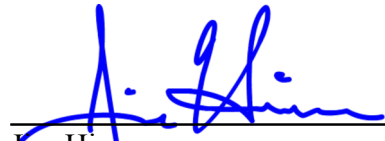
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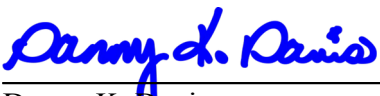
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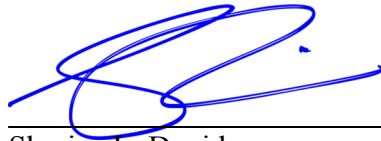
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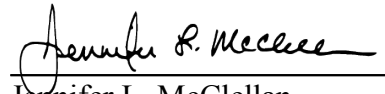
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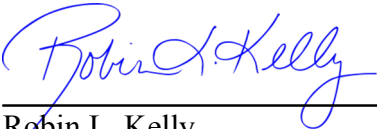
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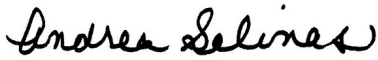
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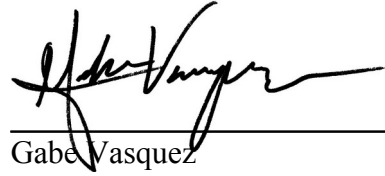
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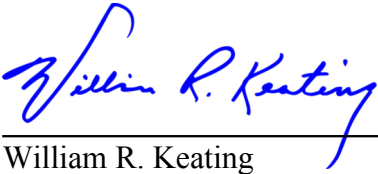
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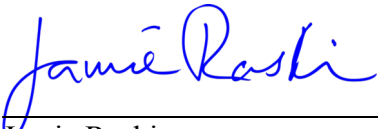
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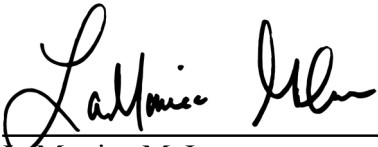
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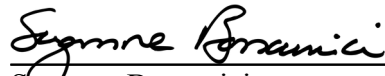
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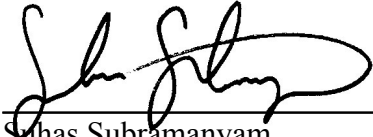
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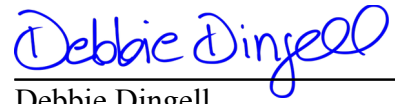
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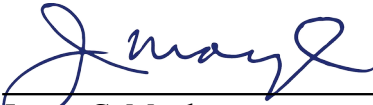
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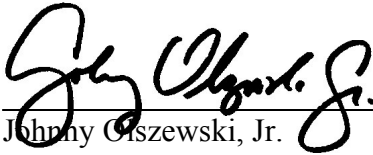
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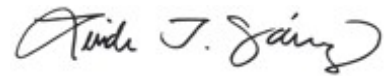
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Lori Trahan
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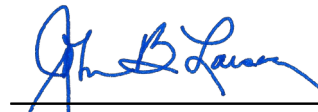
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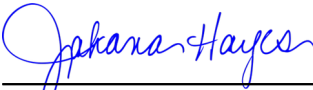
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Jasmine Crockett
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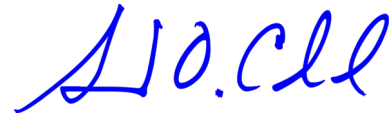
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Chris Pappas
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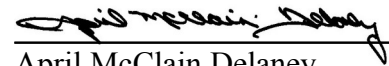
David Scott
Member of Congress



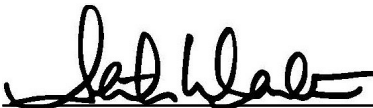
Salud Carbajal
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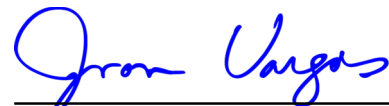
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SETH MOULTON
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Juan Vargas
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Joe Neguse
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Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress (OH-03)



Mark DeSaulnier
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Al Green
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Shontel M. Brown
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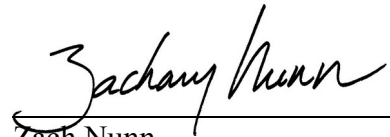
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Kelly Morrison
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Zach Nunn
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Andre Carson
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Chellie Pingree
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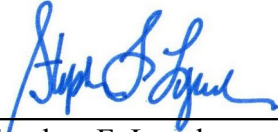
Jesús G. "Chuy" García
Member of Congress



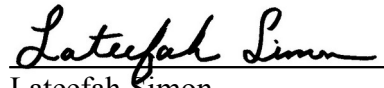
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



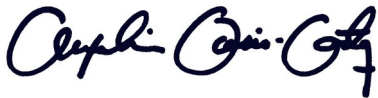
Ayanna Pressley
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Stephen F. Lynch
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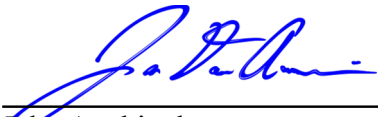
Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



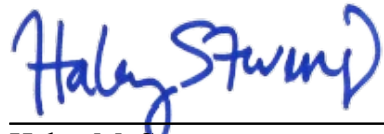
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