

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Barbara Lee
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations,
and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Lee,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year 2024 State, Foreign Operations and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, we respectfully request that you provide **\$300 million for the Nutrition account, and \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account, which includes \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.** Adequate funding for the Nutrition and MCH accounts is critical to preserving effective, evidence-based, poverty-focused assistance that saves lives and helps strengthen economies in low and middle income countries (LMICs).

This Committee has a long-standing record of supporting critical, life-saving investments in global child and maternal health and nutrition. In 2021, USAID helped 91 million women and children access essential health services, reaching 31 million children and 11 million pregnant women with lifesaving nutrition interventions.

While reductions in global mortality rates for women and children are two of the biggest success stories in international development, progress has slowed over the past 12 years. There remain significant gaps that additional investments can help close. In 2021, 5 million children under age five died from mainly preventable and treatable diseases, with malnutrition as the underlying cause of roughly half of these deaths. Additionally, 300,000 women die annually of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.

The MCH account supports delivery of cost-effective, proven services in countries where the burden of preventable deaths is often the highest. USAID's lifesaving investments provide access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care, training for frontline health workers, safe water, sanitation and hygiene in healthcare facilities, health commodities, and nutrition services like breastfeeding support.

A critical portion of the MCH account supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that has helped to immunize a whole generation—more than 981 million children—and prevented more than 16 million deaths, helping to halve child mortality in lower-income countries since 2000. UNICEF reports for the first time in decades the number of children receiving zero doses of life-saving vaccinations have been on the rise in the wake of pandemic disruptions of the routine immunization programs. Resources for Gavi bolsters efforts to continue necessary immunization and deliver vaccines to lower income countries, USAID's technical support is essential to support these efforts and enable

equitable access to vaccines.

The Nutrition account supports nutrition programs for women and children, focusing on the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday. It is crucial to reach children and their caregivers early in life with interventions like breastfeeding support and vitamin A supplementation to prevent malnutrition. When children are malnourished, early detection and access to therapeutic foods can save lives.

Severely malnourished 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. Malnutrition costs the world \$3.5 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare costs each year. The current global food crisis, fueled by conflict, climate shocks and the threat of a global recession, continues to threaten the lives of women and children globally. Full funding of the nutrition account is critical for saving lives and reaching USAID's goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths.

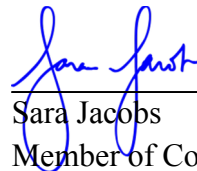
To improve global maternal and child health and nutrition, we respectfully urge you to provide **\$300 million for the Nutrition account, and \$1.15 billion for the Maternal and Child Health (MCH) account – which includes \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance – within the Global Health Programs account at USAID.**

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.

Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



María Elvira Salazar
Member of Congress



Chrissy Houlahan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
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Dina Titus
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Jenniffer González-Colón
Member of Congress



Shontel M. Brown
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Ami Bera, M.D.
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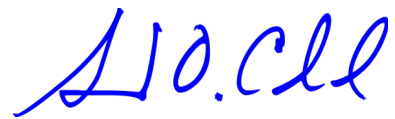
Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



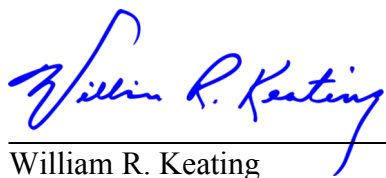
Lucy McBath
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Brian Higgins
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Salud Carbajal
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William R. Keating
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Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



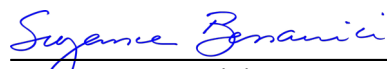
Stacey E. Plaskett
Member of Congress



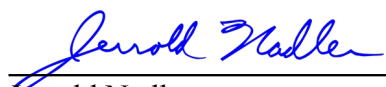
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



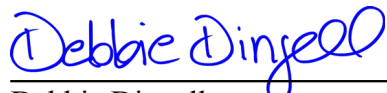
David Scott
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Suzanne Bonamici
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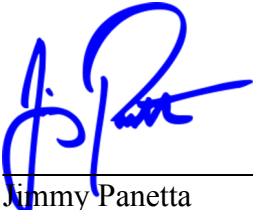
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



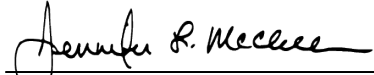
Suzan K. DelBene
Member of Congress



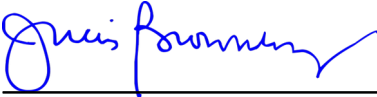
Joe Courtney
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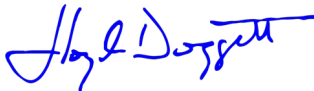
Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



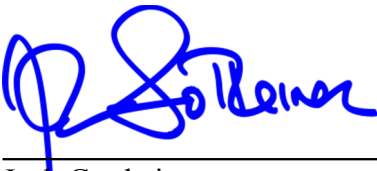
Haley M. Stevens
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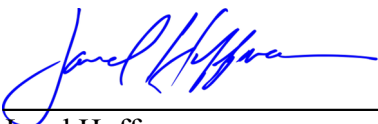
Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



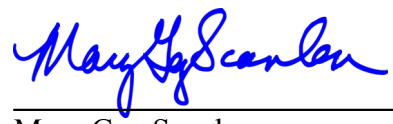
Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
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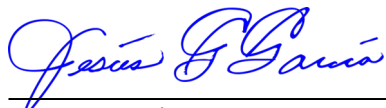
Nicole Malliotakis
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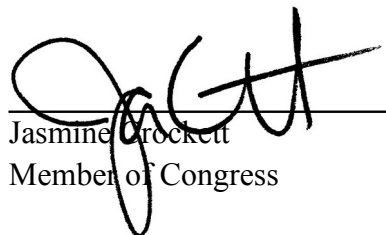
Joaquin Castro
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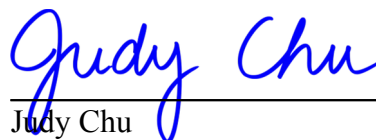
Ritchie Torres
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Judy Chu
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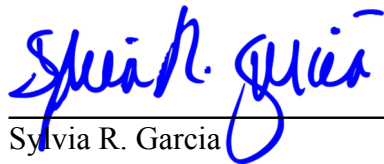
Robin L. Kelly
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Donald G. Davis
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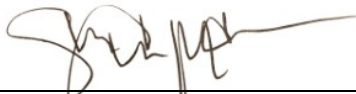
Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



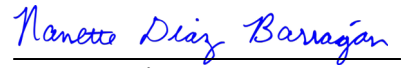
Sylvia R. Garcia
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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
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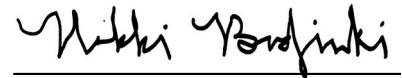
Darin LaHood
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Nikki Budzinski
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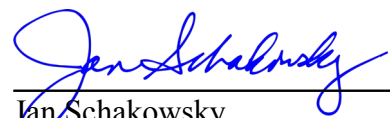
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Ro Khanna
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Eric Swalwell
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Jim Costa
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
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Frederica S. Wilson
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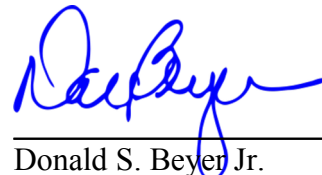
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Bill Foster
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Al Green
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Emanuel Cleaver, II
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Andrea Salinas
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Sydney Kamlager-Dove
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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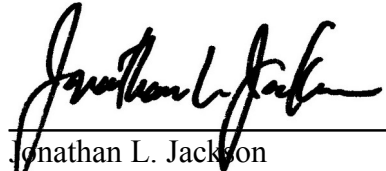
Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.
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Tony Cárdenas
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Earl Blumenauer
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Jonathan L. Jackson
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Elissa Slotkin
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Troy Carter
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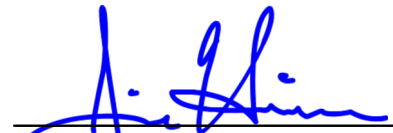
Lori Trahan
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Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



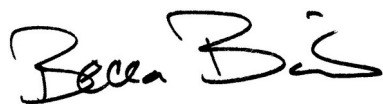
James A. Himes
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Val Hoyle
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Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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Becca Balint
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Deborah K. Ross
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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
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John P. Sarbanes
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



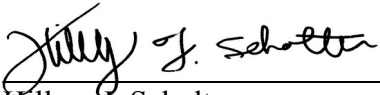
Ted W. Lieu
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Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
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Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



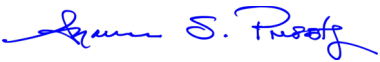
Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress



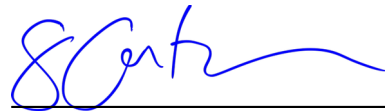
Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress



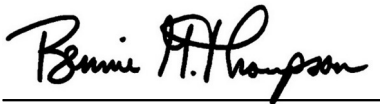
Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



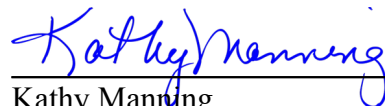
Ayanna Pressley
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Sean Casten
Member of Congress



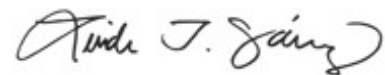
Bennie G. Thompson
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Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



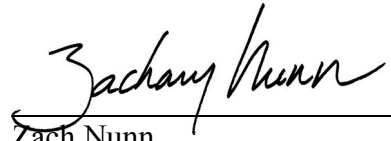
Gabe Ayres
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



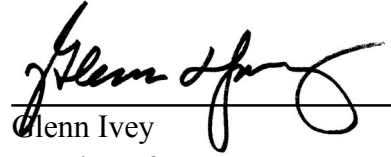
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Zach Nunn
Member of Congress



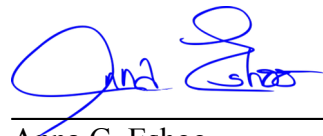
Jared Moskowitz
Member of Congress



Glenn Ivey
Member of Congress

André Carson

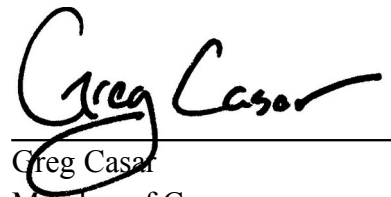
André Carson
Member of Congress



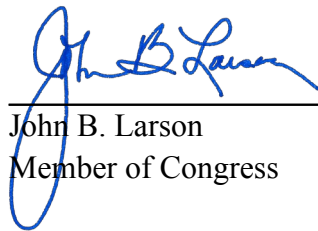
Anna G. Eshoo
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Darren Soto
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