

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
H-307, The Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign  
Operations and Related Programs  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Dicks, Chairwoman Granger, and Ranking Member Lowey:

Thank you for your ongoing efforts to balance limited resources in this difficult fiscal climate to support our nation's highest priorities. As you begin to craft the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2013, we encourage you to consider allocating sufficient funding for the Maternal and Children Health (MCH) and Nutrition accounts.

Every day, approximately 1,000 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, and more than 21,000 children under five-years-old die every day, with malnutrition being the underlying cause in one-third of those child deaths. Sadly, most of these deaths are entirely preventable. Moreover, when a mother dies, her children are less likely to go to school, get immunized against diseases and eat well. Children who lose their mothers are up to 10 times more likely to die in childhood than children with mothers.

The MCH and Nutrition accounts support the delivery of life-saving services for newborns, children, and mothers throughout the developing world. These services foster hope and opportunity for millions, from access to skilled birth attendants and emergency obstetric care to training community health-workers to treat simple but deadly illnesses such as polio, pneumonia and diarrhea. They also support the Global Alliance for Vaccinations Initiative (GAVI) and child nutrition programs. Dramatic reductions in funding for these programs could compromise some of the most vulnerable victims of poverty and instability.

The United States has been a leader in developing the science behind and delivery strategies for these low-cost, high-stakes interventions for families. In addition to the value of the lives saved, these programs serve America's national security and long-term economic interests.

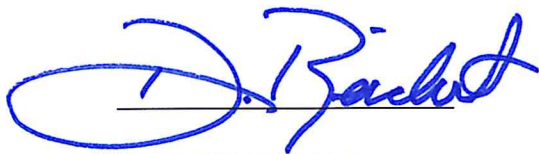
- ***Low Cost, High Impact, Lives Saved.*** Evidence-based and cost-effective interventions exist to address the major causes of maternal, newborn, and child deaths – and are among the most cost-effective investments in global development. According to some estimates, nearly 2/3 of child and newborn deaths -- over 5 million each year-- can be avoided if a package of high-impact, low-cost interventions were made available, including oral rehydration therapy for diarrhea (\$0.54 per course of treatment); antibiotics to treat pneumonia (\$0.71 per course of treatment); and life-saving essential

newborn care. Investment in vaccines, including those to GAVI, are estimated to yield an 18% return on investment by 2020 – and an even higher return when used in combination with other interventions. Local health workers can be trained to deliver many of these interventions appropriately in the community, reducing overall costs of health care when compared to facility based care.

- **Basic health and nutrition interventions help build stable governments and strengthen security.** According to the Director of National Intelligence's 2010 Annual Threat Assessment, "The spotty delivery of basic services in many countries, particularly for health and education, provides an opportunity for non-state organizations to proselytize and develop political legitimacy... Islamic extremists in Afghanistan and Pakistan followed a similar model to gain acceptance for their ideas by providing education services that the governments were not providing."
- **Healthy mothers and children help spur economic growth both at home and abroad.** In addition to the human costs, current estimates have the *economic* impact of maternal, newborn and child deaths to be a global loss of over \$15 billion every year due to diminished productivity, and recent studies have shown that, as much as 3% of the gross domestic product of a country is wiped out due to child malnutrition, reducing the productivity of people trying to work their way out of poverty in the world's poorest countries. The U.S. economy is highly dependent upon emerging markets, which represent half of American exports. If they grow, we grow.
- **These programs work.** U.S. leadership and funding to improve the survival and health of mothers and children has delivered unprecedented success worldwide. In 1990, the number of children dying each year was estimated at nearly 13 million. If no action were taken, the number would have increased to over 18 million, but instead, in 2010, the estimated number of under-5 child deaths was 7.7 million. Between 1990 and 2008, maternal mortality worldwide dropped by one third. Millions of children's lives are being saved each year, but millions of preventable deaths still occur each year. A reduction in the United States' support for the health and survival of women and children at this time would have an immediate and devastating effect for many in the developing world – and we would fail to capitalize on the tremendous progress and enormous good will generated by decades of investments.

We again thank you for your leadership on this vital issue and appreciate your attention to this request for support for maternal and child health in the fiscal year 2013 State, Foreign Operations bill.

Sincerely,



DAVE REICHERT  
Member of Congress



BETTY McCOLLUM  
Member of Congress



AARON SCHOCK  
Member of Congress



LOIS CAPPS  
Member of Congress



Pete Stark

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Bill

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Steve Mac

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Calvin B. Peck

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Eddie Bernice Johnson

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