

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

May 31, 2011

Dr. Rajiv Shah
Administrator
United States Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Dr. Shah:

We are writing in support of the United States making an appropriate commitment at the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) pledging conference on June 13 in London. The U.S. will be joined by other donors and partners and will be asked to make multi-year pledges. With additional funding, GAVI can save the lives of four million children in five years.

As you know, the GAVI Alliance is a public-private global health partnership, created in 2000 to save children's lives and protect people's health by increasing access to immunization in the world's poorest countries. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that GAVI support has directly prevented over 5.4 million future deaths since 2000. Since its launch, GAVI has supported the immunization of more than 288 million children.

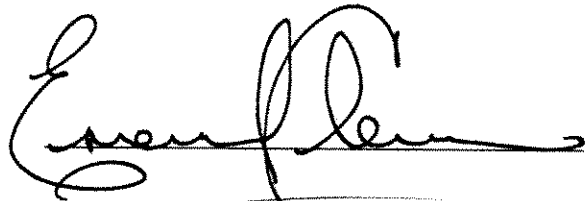
GAVI now has an exciting opportunity to make significant advances against the two leading killers of children under five years old. Pneumonia and diarrhea cause nearly 40% of all childhood deaths which is more children's lives lost than to HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria combined. If enough resources are made available, 90 million children will be given the pneumococcal vaccine (to fight against pneumonia) and 53 million children will be given the rotavirus vaccine (to fight against diarrhea). Childhood vaccines in particular are one of the most cost-effective ways to save lives and prevent disease for a lifetime. Despite significant progress made in reducing childhood mortality, nearly two million children still die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. Most of these deaths occur in low-income countries.

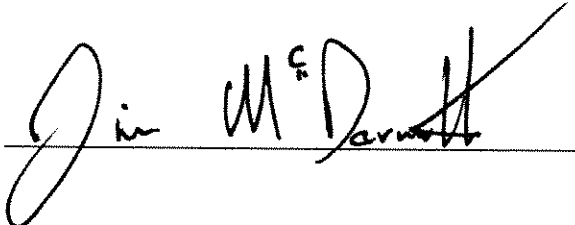
Vaccines help protect against preventable death and significantly reduce the likelihood of future illness and disability. They help save health costs by reducing clinic visits and hospitalizations and allowing children and adults to participate in school and work as productive members of society. Often called a "best buy in public health," vaccines have proven again and again to be cheap, easy to administer and effective.

The U.S. played a lead role in the creation of GAVI and continues to be a strong supporter. However, in recent years the U.S. has provided a smaller share of overall funding. The Obama Administration recognized the importance of GAVI by requesting \$115 million in FY2012. This conference gives the U.S. an opportunity to increase its support of this program. We hope that you would reaffirm our commitment to saving lives by making a three year pledge, for fiscal years 2012 through 2014, of \$450 million and working with Congressional leaders to ensure this goal is met through the annual appropriations process.

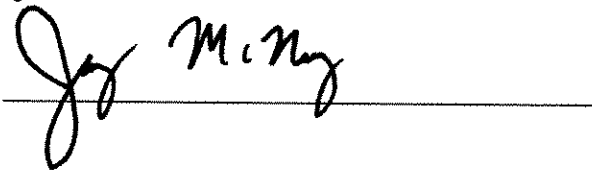
Sincerely,











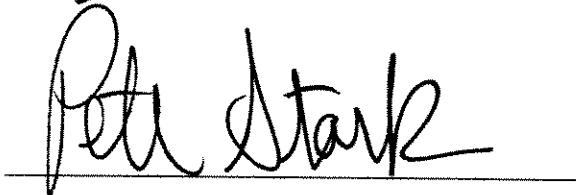




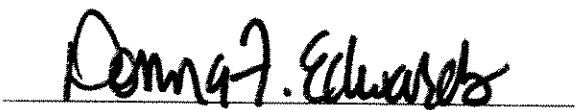


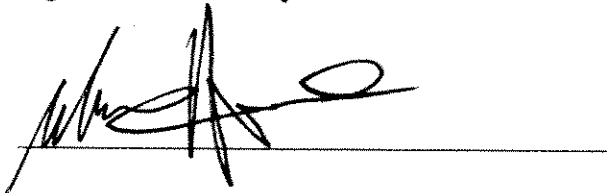














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[Signature]

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Y M Post

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