

The Honorable Richard Shelby  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations  
and Related Programs  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

August 20, 2019

Dear Chairman Shelby, Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Graham,

As leading global health and development organizations, we are concerned by the recent news that the Trump administration is again attempting to rescind appropriated funding for international affairs accounts, including funding for development assistance at USAID and the State Department. We appreciate your past leadership in opposing rescission efforts and urge you to actively do so again when a rescission package targeting unobligated funds for Fiscal Years 2018 and 2019 is sent to Capitol Hill. The repeated attempts to rescind foreign assistance funding undermines Congress' exclusive constitutional authority of the power of the purse.

The continued efforts to cut foreign assistance curtails the impact of these strategic investments and directly affects the success and long-term impact of development programs. In addition, rescissions to the international affairs budget will impact Congressional and administration priorities to empower women economically, respond to the crisis in Venezuela, grow U.S. influence in Africa and the Indo-Pacific region and support UN peacekeeping operations and reform.

U.S. investments in development and global health have continually received bipartisan support on Capitol Hill. Moreover, this funding makes up a small percentage of the U.S. budget but has some of the biggest returns on investment, and results of these investments are clear – improving nutrition for 18 million young children, increasing literacy rates by 33 percent, and improving access to safe drinking water for 7.6 million people. Cutting the funding to these programs does not just curtail planned investments in development, but also undermines the power of current programs to accelerate outcomes.

Importantly, investments in development and foreign assistance also deliver results for the United States. Forty-three of the top 50 nations that buy and consume American agricultural products were once U.S. foreign aid recipients. Democracy and governance assistance helped transition 36 nations to democratic government between 1980 and 1995, building more stable allies and partners.

We strongly urge Congress to continue to show its support for international affairs accounts, including development programs, by affirmatively acting to reject any rescission package put forward by the administration.

Sincerely,

1. 1,000 Days
2. Action Against Hunger
3. ADRA International
4. Advancing Synergy
5. American Academy of Pediatrics
6. American Heart Association
7. American International Health Alliance
8. American Jewish World Service
9. American Medical Student Association
10. American Society of Tropical Medicine & Hygiene
11. Amref Health Africa
12. Association of Public Health Laboratories
13. AVAC
14. Better World Campaign
15. Bread for the World
16. CARE USA
17. Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
18. Christian Connections for International Health
19. Council for Global Equality
20. Disabled Children's Fund
21. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
22. Faiths for Safe Water
23. FIA Foundation
24. Food for the Hungry
25. Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
26. Global Citizen
27. Global Health Council
28. Global Water 2020
29. Health GAP
30. HealthRight International
31. Heartland Alliance International
32. HIV Medicine Association
33. Housing Works, Inc.
34. Humanity & Inclusion
35. IMA World Health
36. Infectious Diseases Society of America
37. InterAction
38. International Cancer Expert Corps
39. International Medical Corps
40. International Public Health Advisors
41. IntraHealth International
42. John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
43. Last Mile Health
44. LWR-IMA
45. Management Sciences for Health
46. Maternal & Infant Health Consulting (M&IHC)
47. Medical IMPACT
48. Mercy Corps
49. NASTAD
50. Partners In Health
51. PATH
52. Pathfinder International
53. Planned Parenthood Federation of America
54. RESULTS
55. Save the Children
56. TB Alliance
57. The G4 Alliance
58. The Task Force for Global Health
59. Treatment Action Group (TAG)
60. United States People living with HIV Caucus
61. World Education, Inc.