

Dear [First name or friend],

**July 7th, was historic for all of the wrong reasons. The United States Ambassador to the UN presented a letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations formally withdrawing from the World Health Organization (WHO). Please tell Congress to do everything it can to restore our relationship with the WHO.**

[YES, I'LL SPEAK UP FOR WHO]

Around the world we are seeing record numbers of cases of COVID-19 and the WHO is leading the global effort to combat this pandemic. The United States has a history of generosity in its response to global health security and was critical to the creation of the WHO. It is therefore both hugely regrettable and misguided that the White House has elected to pull out of the organization. This decision will make us less able to deal with the pandemic here at home and will make the world less safe.

For decades, the WHO has been a valued partner in the fight against <PLEASE INSERT MESSAGING RELATIVE TO YOUR ORGANIZATION HERE (Examples Below)> .

**A strong WHO makes the world safer and healthier. Period. The U.S. should not, and cannot, tackle COVID-19 or <INSERT YOUR INTERVENTION HERE> without WHO. Tell Congress to act TODAY.**

[YES, I'LL SPEAK UP FOR WHO]

Sincerely,

SAMPLE ISSUE AREAS AND MESSAGING:

**POLIO:**

WHO has been a valued partner in the fight against polio. WHO leads surveillance, immunization, and technical support, and is able to reach remote areas in countries where polio still exists. Without these detection capabilities, polio could surge to 200,000 cases annually within a decade.

**HEALTH WORKFORCE:**

WHO has been a valued partner in strengthening the health workforce around the world. WHO works with countries to build national capacities and stronger health systems so that countries have the ability to respond promptly when a disaster strikes or an outbreak flares.

**SEASONAL INFLUENZA:**

WHO is a valued partner in keeping my neighbors safe by coordinating the process for the development of the seasonal influenza vaccine.

**MALARIA:**

WHO has been a valued partner in elimination of malaria. WHO has called for minimizing interruptions to malaria prevention and treatment services during the pandemic. Disruptions in

WHO's Global Malaria Program caused by U.S. withdrawal of funding or membership will delay the effort to achieve a malaria-free world.

### **MEASLES:**

WHO is a valued partner in keeping one of the world's most infectious and deadly diseases at bay, measles. WHO is the key implementing agency in the Measles & Rubella Initiative with its disease surveillance networks, vaccination campaigns, and technical expertise. As COVID-19 continues to spread globally, over 117 million children in 37 countries may miss out on receiving life-saving measles vaccine. Measles immunization campaigns in 24 countries have already been delayed; more will be postponed. Withdrawal of U.S. funding or membership in WHO would further upset these efforts and delay the goal of achieving and maintaining a world without measles, rubella and congenital rubella syndrome.

### **HIV/AIDS:**

WHO is a valued partner of the U.S. government's efforts to eliminate HIV. The President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief relies on and helps countries implement WHO's treatment guidelines for HIV/AIDS. PEPFAR and WHO work together to enhance programs in areas including lab capacity, prevention of mother to child transmission, TB/HIV, health systems strengthening, and counseling and testing. U.S. withdrawal of funding and/or membership in WHO would have a negative impact on the ability of WHO's HIV/AIDS Program to support what has been PEPFAR's remarkable success in saving millions of lives.

### **PRIMARY HEALTH CARE:**

WHO is a valued partner in strengthening primary health care (PHC), which can meet more than 80% of people's health needs and provides the backbone for efforts in maternal and child health, vaccinations, HIV/AIDS, TB, and Malaria, and global health security. WHO rallied the world around an ambitious agenda for primary health care, the U.S.-endorsed Astana Declaration, in October 2018, which declared that "strengthening primary health care is the most inclusive, effective, and efficient approach to enhance people's physical and mental health," and that PHC is essential to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. WHO provides valuable guidance and technical assistance to countries working to improve equitable access to quality primary health care -- work that helps increase the reach and effectiveness of the U.S.'s own global health investments.

### **NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES:**

WHO has been a valued partner for noncommunicable diseases. WHO has led the way in providing critical technical guidance to countries to integrate cost effective interventions against major NCDs into their health systems. Without WHO's work more lives will be lost to preventable deaths, especially in low- and middle-income countries who shoulder the disproportionate burden of NCDs. U.S. withdrawal from the WHO will reverse important advances made in global health and have a staggering effect on countries economic development.

### **MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH:**

WHO collaborates closely with UNICEF on ensuring the prevention and treatment of pneumonia, malaria, and diarrhea (leading killers of children that are all treatable) through integrated community case management. Regarding maternal care, WHO plays a critical role in ensuring women, especially pregnant mothers, receive the care and respect they deserve while accessing health services, especially during and after childbirth.

## **HUMANITARIAN/FRAGILE SETTINGS:**

In many conflict-affected and fragile areas in which the U.S. is invested, such as Yemen, Syria, and the DRC, WHO is the only source for basic health services and information.

Not every country has a Food and Drug Administration like the United States, and WHO approves new drugs and medicines for countries that lack this capacity.

## **SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH:**

WHO is a valued partner in advancing the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women, young people, and marginalized communities around the world. WHO provides high-impact research and evidence-based guidelines for providing a range of sexual and reproductive health services, including contraception, infertility, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), maternal health, safe abortion where legal, and care for survivors of gender-based violence. During the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO has continued to uphold a human rights-centered approach to health, including by issuing guidelines stating that individual's rights to sexual and reproductive health care must be respected.

## **TECHNOLOGY, RESEARCH, AND DEVELOPMENT:**

WHO has been a valued partner in strengthening health research, product development, and regulatory strengthening globally. They play a critical normative role in collecting health intelligence and helping to inform the greatest scientists, researchers, and health workers to solve the world's greatest health challenges.

The US government must continue to engage with global institutions like WHO that can reach places the US cannot and have a holistic way to receive key scientific data, health intelligence, and insights globally to advance research on HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, emerging infectious disease and antimicrobial resistance.

Looking at the current pandemic alone, the WHO has played a herculean role developing target product profiles to inform product developers, it is the only organization capable of coordinating the unprecedented global "Solidarity Trial" which includes the participation of over 100 countries and enables researchers to collect information and generalize results related to potential therapeutics 80% faster than single-country studies. Only WHO has the global convening power to marshal a partnership with Member States, major donors, and the private sector to create the Access to COVID-19 Technologies Accelerator to coordinate the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 diagnostics, treatments, and vaccines. They are also coordinating safe and efficient Emergency Use Listings of COVID-19 products to help National Regulatory Agencies review products as quickly as possible when they come online. Furthermore, they have created guidelines for manufacturers, laboratories, and contract organizations participating in the WHO prequalification process during the COVID-19 pandemic and recently published a framework strategy for the distribution of future coronavirus treatments and vaccines, with over 4 billion doses needed to vaccinate the world's priority populations. Each element of their COVID-19 response touches the work of various US government agencies, private sector partners, research, and academic community working collectively to fight the pandemic.

## **NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES:**

WHO is a key leader in the effort to eliminate neglected tropical disease (NTDs). NTDs cause immense human suffering and death and remain a serious impediment to poverty reduction. WHO created and helps countries to implement the Roadmap for NTDS. Through coordination and support of policies and

strategies, WHO supports expansion to access to diagnosis, treatment and care interventions for all those in need for elimination and eradication of NTDs.

### **WATER, SANITATION AND HYGIENE:**

Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) is a critical part of the foundation of a strong health system, ensuring the delivery of quality care, especially for mothers and newborns, and the safety of patients, healthcare workers, and surrounding communities. WHO is a valued partner in working to ensure WASH throughout communities and health systems and in healthcare facilities in particular. The withdrawal of U.S. funding to WHO will hamper efforts to ensure that those communities and healthcare facilities have access to safe water, soap, and improved sanitation to prevent the spread of current and future infectious diseases, including COVID-19.

### **TUBERCULOSIS:**

WHO plays a crucial and indispensable role in the global response to tuberculosis, and any reduction of US support for WHO's work on TB would imperil the global effort to end the disease and harm US interests. USAID's grant to the World Health Organization's Global Tuberculosis program's Technical Support and Coordination team enables critically needed technical assistance to 54 priority countries. Without such technical support, US assistance through the Global Fund would be much less effective in reaching its goals. USAID is also the primary funder of the annual WHO Global Tuberculosis Report, which is a comprehensive and authoritative report on the status of the TB epidemic, the level of response and what policies countries need to scale up to end the disease. This information, coming from a trusted and authoritative body, is indispensable in the effort to secure greater investment by the affected countries themselves in the effort to end the disease.

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**Page Title:** Support the World Health Organization

**Intro Text:** The Administration has sent a letter to the Secretary General terminating our relationship with the WHO, please tell Congress that this decision will cripple the global response to COVID-19 and hurt <PLEASE INSERT YOUR AREA> efforts.

**Email subject line:** Please stand up for WHO

**Email text:**

Dear [elected official],

I was extremely disappointed to learn that the Trump Administration has elected to withdraw with the United States from the World Health Organization (WHO).

Members of Congress, on both sides of the aisle, have consistently worked to fully fund the WHO, in keeping with a long tradition of U.S. leadership in global public health.

The WHO needs U.S. financial support to tackle COVID-19 and to continue the organization's efforts to effectively fight diseases such as polio, measles, and HIV-AIDS <OR INSERT YOUR AREA HERE>.

From the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, WHO recognized that testing needed to form the backbone of the global response, and they have distributed hundreds of millions of pieces of protective equipment to doctors and nurses in the most vulnerable countries around the globe. WHO is also the only agency in the world capable of coordinating unprecedented global trials on therapeutics and vaccines.

WHO has been a reliable partner in the fight against <YOUR ISSUE HERE>.

The fact is withdrawing support for the World Health Organization in the midst of the greatest pandemic facing the world is dangerous and shortsighted.

I hope that I can count on you to recognize why we must support WHO: Without combatting the disease everywhere, all Americans are at risk.

Sincerely,

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