

April 2026

## Congress: Protect global health and education funding

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Over decades, the world has made vital progress in global health and education. This has meant millions of lives saved. Bipartisan congressional support for these advances has been key. **The U.S. has a history of providing one-third of the financial resources of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. This has helped save 70 million lives.** In fact, it has [reduced the death rate of the three diseases by 63 percent](#).

While tuberculosis (TB) specifically is often thought of as a disease of the past, it is the world's leading infectious killer. And it is a key driver of poverty. We've known how to prevent, treat, and cure TB for decades. But in 2024, [10.7 million people fell ill with the disease. And 1.23 million died of it](#).

[Rates of maternal, infant, and child deaths are still astonishingly high](#). This is especially true in low-income countries. **For the first time this century, the number of children dying before their fifth birthday has risen.** An estimated 4.8 million young children died in 2025, over 200,000 more than 2024. [Routine vaccinations have saved over 154 million lives in the past 50 years](#), mostly children under 5. But one in five children do not have access to these vaccinations, putting their lives at risk.

**Vaccines for common childhood killers also make children less likely to become malnourished. Good nutrition helps ward off deadly disease.** And yet [undernutrition is the underlying cause of nearly half of all deaths among children under five](#). Malnutrition like stunting (too short for age) must be addressed. The same is true for wasting (too thin for height) and anemia. This will save lives and prevent disabilities.

Finally, the world has achieved incredible educational advances. But still [over 270 million children are not in school](#). Access to school does not equal learning. Education quality must be supported.

### Take Action Now

With [FY27 Appropriations Dear Colleague letters](#) in the House now closed, this is a critical moment to **strengthen relationships and build momentum**. Check the [FY27 Dear Colleague Letter Scorecard](#) and consider taking the following actions:

**Thank House Members Who Signed Dear Colleague Letters – and ask them to take the next step**

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Reach out to your Representative and thank them for supporting global health and education through the Dear Colleague letters. Recognition reinforces leadership. You may ask them to reach out personally to National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) subcommittee leadership, to reinforce their support. This “peer to peer” outreach is incredibly powerful.

### **Follow Up with Those House Members Who Didn't Sign Dear Colleague Letters**

If your Representative did not sign the FY27 House Dear Colleague Letters, consider it an opportunity to follow up and learn more about their position, as well as an opportunity to share more information and reiterate the importance of their support for these programs. They still have an opportunity to express their support for our requested FY27 funding levels by sending a letter directly to the appropriators on the committee.

### **Initial Senate actions, and laying the groundwork for more**

**Most Senate offices have their appropriations forms open now.** We encourage you to reach out to your Senate offices to confirm the procedure and deadlines to get FY27 requests submitted in time. Senators have deadline to submit their requests to the State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs (SFOPS) subcommittee - by April 30<sup>th</sup>.

FY27 Senate Dear Colleague letters are expected soon. As with the House letters, we may experience a very quick turnaround. Please be on the lookout for these [letters at this link](#) along with accompanying deadlines and be ready to act quickly when they are released. *But you don't have to wait!* You can reach out now to educate your Senator on the issues, let them know you're counting on their support, and that you'll be back in touch.

A helpful way to frame your letter, call script, or laser talk for a lobby meeting is to use **EPIC Laser Talk format** outlined below. The more personal you make your message, the better. Use the bullet points as a guide.

## Sample message to Congress (EPIC format)

### **E = ENGAGE the listener: What makes you passionate about this issue?**

- A person's access to lifesaving care and advances shouldn't depend on where they're born.

### **P = State the PROBLEM: What is the problem you want the listener to solve?**

- In 2025, USAID was abruptly dismantled. Lifesaving investments in global health and education were severely compromised. This has had devastating consequences. Tens of thousands of lives have been lost. Decades of U.S. goodwill has evaporated.

### **I = INFORM on the solution: What would help solve the problem?**

- Congress remains committed to global health and education. It expressed this commitment in the recent FY26 budget. Longstanding bipartisan support for these programs has helped save millions of lives. Congress can make these critical investments to promote prosperity. These investments will re-establish the U.S.' leadership in the fight against global poverty.

### **C = CALL to action: What specific action do you want the listener to take?**

#### **For members of the House:**

#### **If they did not sign a Dear Colleague Letter:**

- We noted that you did not sign the Dear Colleague letter in support of [*name the letter or issue*]. We would like to understand where [*Rep. Name*] may disagree with this request or if there were other roadblocks to their support. We welcome an opportunity to discuss this with your office and learn if there is any specific data you may need. Would you be able to meet with us?

#### **If they signed a Dear Colleague Letter:**

- Thank you for your support in signing [*name the letter they signed*]! We hope to count on your continued leadership as the appropriations process progresses. Are you willing to speak to NSRP subcommittee leadership personally?

**For members of the Senate:**

- Will you urge *[Senator Name]* to submit the following FY27 budget requests to the SFOPS subcommittee of Appropriations?

Please let us know if there are FY27 Appropriations Forms that we may submit with these requests. We would also invite *[Senator Name]* to join colleagues on a Dear Colleague Letter which will be circulating soon.

**FY27 Appropriations Requests:**

- \$1.53 billion for the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria
- \$1 billion for bilateral Tuberculosis
- \$1.15 billion for Maternal and Child Health, including \$340 million for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance
- \$300 million for bilateral Nutrition
- \$970 million for International Basic Education, including \$150 million for the Global Partnership for Education.