**DRAFT Letter to the President to Support Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**

Dear Mr. President,

As members of Congress concerned about ending preventable child deaths, **we urge you to commit $1 billion over four years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, at the upcoming pledging conference to support immunizing 300 million children and saving over 5 million lives.**

We recognize Gavi’s work to provide new and underutilized vaccines to the poorest countries as a key driver in ending preventable child deaths by 2035. We commend your continued support for this bold goal, making ending preventable child deaths a pillar of your global health work, and for challenging Congress during your State of the Union addresses in both 2013 and 2014 to join the world in ending extreme poverty and its most devastating consequences—particularly child death—in the next two decades.

Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, is working across the poorest countries to roll out vaccines in the hardest to reach places. Gavi empowers poor countries to ensure lifesaving vaccines reach the kids that need them most – so that where a child is born doesn’t determine whether she gets to live. With vaccines, children stay healthy and have the opportunity to thrive.

Gavi enables countries to prevent unnecessary death, save tens of billions in economic loss and health costs, and increase their work force and economic growth. Since Gavi was founded in the year 2000, the U.S. has contributed approximately $1.2 billion to Gavi, supporting the immunization of almost half a billion children, to save more than six million lives.

In January 2015, Gavi will have its second donor replenishment conference where it hopes to mobilize an additional $7.5 billion in investments from donors to meet the global need for its next strategic period to immunize an additional 300 million children. **If fully funded, this strategy will save over 5 million more lives.** A successful replenishment would also increase by 10-fold the proportion of children worldwide who are fully protected from vaccine-preventable diseases.

As the fourth largest donor to Gavi, U.S. leadership is critical to leveraging other donors and support poor countries. All Gavi-eligible countries help pay some portion of the vaccine cost. This reflects the key principle of country ownership of the vaccine programs, and is a critical part of Gavi’s sustainability model. We are impressed by the partnerships created through Gavi’s co-financing model and the work to support countries as they move from lower-income to middle-income economies as well as those that are set to graduate from Gavi support in the next strategic period.

We call on the Administration to commit a strong and meaningful pledge in January at the Gavi donor replenishment conference in Germany in order to help meet the goal of immunizing an additional 300 million children. U.S. leadership is imperative to make the gains needed to bend the curve on ending preventable child deaths and Gavi is essential to the U.S. to reaching that goal.

**As this administration plans for the Gavi replenishment conference in January 2015, we urge you to pledge $1 billion over 4 years to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.**

Through these efforts and continued funding for other key maternal and child health programs, together we can reachthe 2035 mark of ending preventable child deaths. We applaud your leadership on this issue and thank you for your attention to this important request.

Sincerely,