

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 16, 2025

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Chairman
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security,
Department of State, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Diaz-Balart and Ranking Member Frankel,

As you determine priorities for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, we strongly urge you provide to provide robust funding for Nutrition and Maternal and Child Health (MCH), which includes funding for Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, within the Global Health Programs account.

We appreciate this Committee's long-standing record of supporting life-saving investments in global child and maternal health and nutrition. Adequate funding for the MCH and Nutrition accounts is necessary to preserve effective, evidence-based, poverty-focused assistance that saves lives and helps strengthen economies in low- and middle-income countries. Providing smart foreign assistance is in the strategic interest of the United States. It decreases the desperation that often drives conflict; gives the US opportunities to win hearts and minds; and stabilizes low- and middle-income countries to serve as better US trading partners. Acts of goodwill through well-designed foreign assistance express our nation's values, and they help create enduring alliances that benefit the US.

Since 2000, through U.S. foreign assistance, under-five child mortality has dropped by 58 percent and maternal mortality by 42 percent across countries prioritized for investment. While reductions in global mortality rates for women and children are two of the biggest success stories in international development, progress has slowed for more than a decade.

Every year, around 5 million children under age five die from mainly preventable and treatable diseases, with malnutrition as the underlying cause of roughly half of these deaths.¹ Moreover, nearly 300,000 women die annually of preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth.² Additional investments will spur progress against these preventable deaths and continue to build the United States' legacy and leadership in maternal and child health and nutrition.

The MCH account supports the delivery of cost-effective, proven services in countries where the burden of preventable maternal and child deaths is the highest. Over the past decade, U.S. bilateral programs have helped save more than 6 million lives. Since 2012, these efforts have enabled nearly 68 million women to give birth in a health facility, reached over 55 million newborns with care after delivery, provided almost 140 million treatments to children for diarrhea and pneumonia, and trained 14.2 million health workers in maternal and child health and nutrition.

A critical portion of the MCH account supports Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, a public-private partnership that has helped to halve child mortality in lower-income countries since 2000 by immunizing an entire generation. Gavi has helped vaccinate more than 1.1 billion children, preventing nearly 19 million future deaths. Resources for Gavi bolster efforts to continue necessary

¹ UNICEF, Child Malnutrition, May 2023, accessed February 8, 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/>

² UNICEF, Trends in maternal mortality 2000 to 2022, accessed February 1, 2024, <https://data.unicef.org/resources/trends-in-maternal-mortality-2000-to-2020/>

immunization and deliver vaccines to lower-income countries; U.S. bilateral technical support is essential to support these efforts and ensure shots get into arms around the world. As

We urge you to support this vital investment in Gavi. As a key partner in delivering life-saving vaccines to the world's most vulnerable children, Gavi plays a central role in strengthening global health security and advancing U.S. diplomatic and humanitarian goals. This funding reaffirms America's leadership in global immunization and help ensure that children everywhere have a fair chance at a healthy future.

The Nutrition account supports nutrition programs for women and children, focusing on the first 1,000 days between pregnancy and a child's second birthday, when interventions have an outsized impact on a child's development. Severely malnourished children are much more likely to have weakened immune systems and are at risk of permanent physical and mental stunting, which prevents them from reaching their full educational, social, and earning potential. In aggregate, malnutrition costs the world \$3.5 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare costs each year.

The Nutrition account supports a targeted set of high-impact interventions that can prevent the worst effects of severe malnutrition. In 2023, U.S. bilateral foreign assistance reached more than 28 million children and 11 million pregnant women with cost-effective nutrition interventions like breastfeeding support, prenatal vitamins, and vitamin A supplementation. U.S. programs also provide severely malnourished children with therapeutic foods that they need to survive, and reached 2.1 million children across more than 35 countries in 2023 with this lifesaving treatment. With current US programs imperiled, an estimated one million children will no longer have access to malnutrition treatment, which could lead to an additional 163,500 child deaths per year.

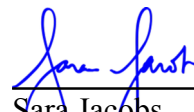
Robust funding for the MCH and Nutrition accounts is critical for saving lives and reaching the U.S. Government's goal of ending preventable child and maternal deaths. To improve global maternal and child health and nutrition, we respectfully urge you to provide robust funding for these accounts to support child and maternal survival.

Thank you for your serious consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to ensure that the United States maintains its leadership in this global effort to save lives.

Sincerely,



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress




Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



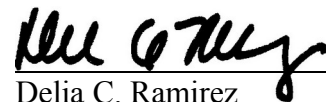
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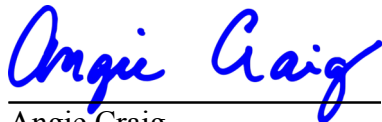
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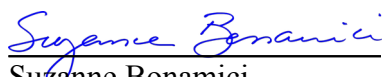
David Scott
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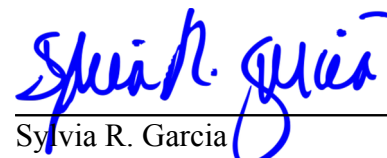
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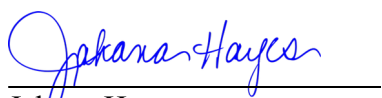
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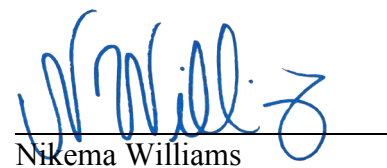
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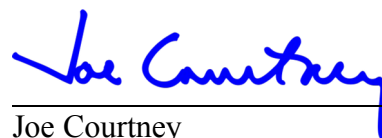
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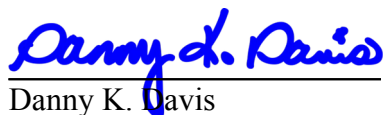
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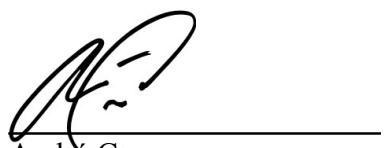
Mark DeSaulnier
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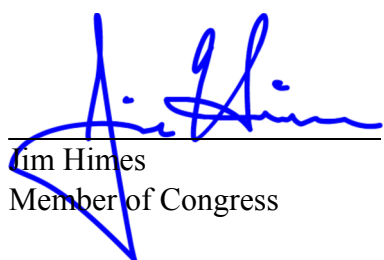
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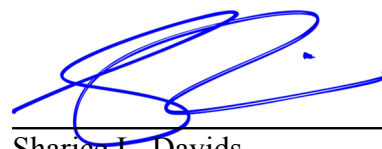
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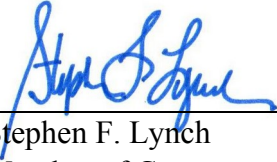
Lloyd Doggett
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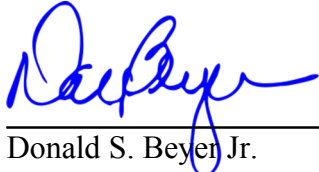
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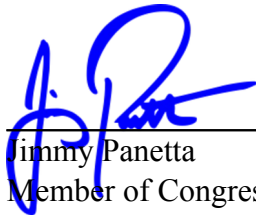
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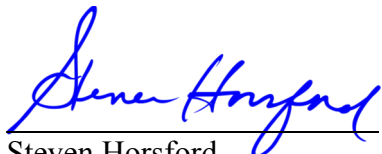
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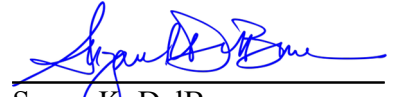
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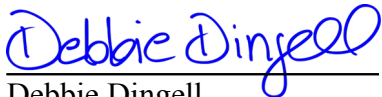
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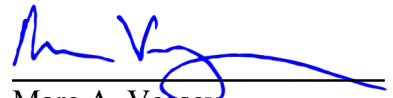
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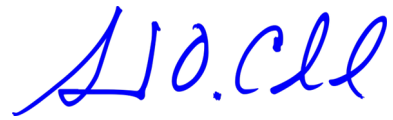
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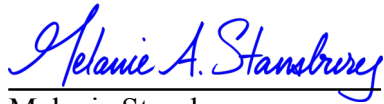
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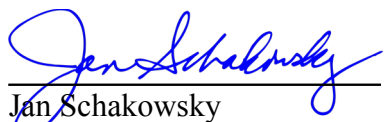
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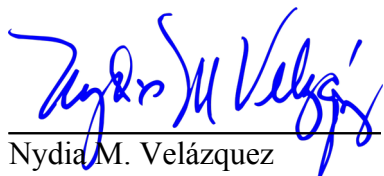
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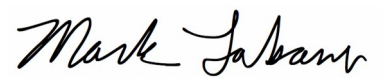
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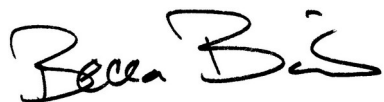
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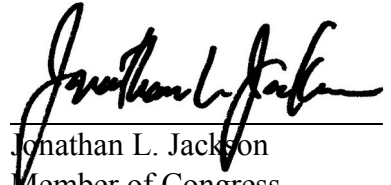
Becca Balint
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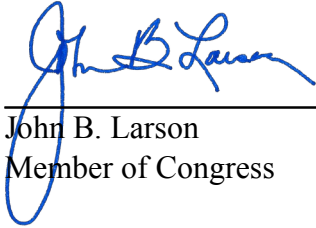
Mikie Sherrill
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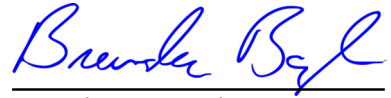
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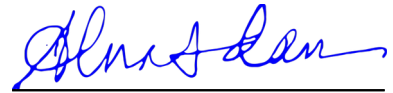
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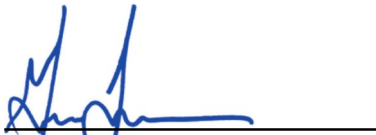
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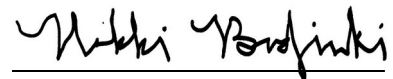
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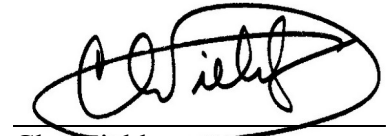
Yvette D. Clarke
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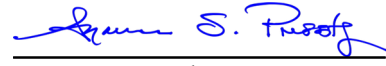
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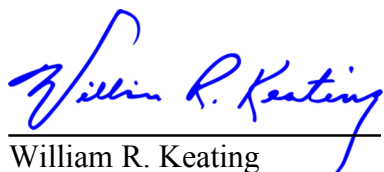
Cleo Fields
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Aumua Amata Coleman
Radewagen
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Ayanna Pressley
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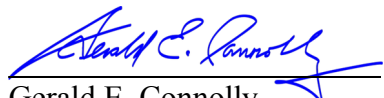
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Henry C. "Hank" Johnson,
Jr.
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Patrick Ryan
Member of Congress



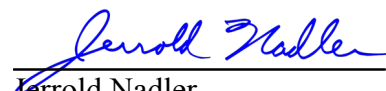
Gerald E. Connolly
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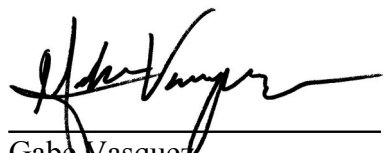
Deborah K. Ross
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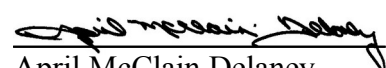
Eric Sorensen
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Jerrold Nadler
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Gabe Vasquez
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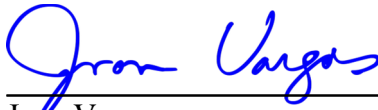
April McClain Delaney
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Jake Auchincloss
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John Garamendi
Member of Congress



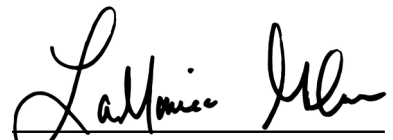
Juan Vargas
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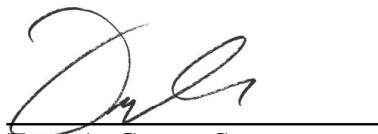
Josh Gottheimer
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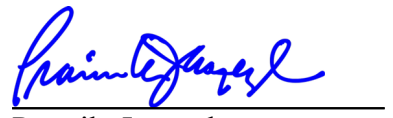
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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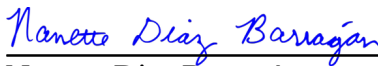
LaMonica McIver
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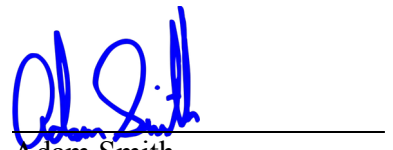
Nanette Diaz Barragán
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Maxine Dexter
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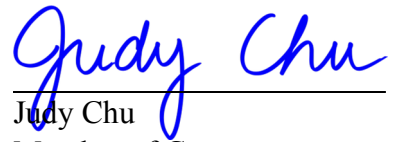
Ami Bera, M.D.
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Member of Congress



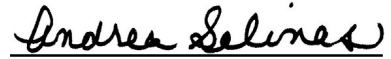
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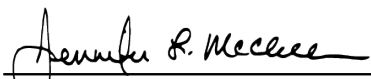
Andrea Salinas
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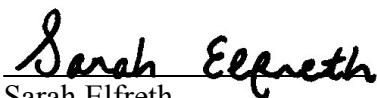
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Mike Thompson
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