

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Support the GAVI Alliance and Immunization for Children Globally (H.Res.688)

July 29, 2014

Supporting Organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Leprosy Missions, Catholic Medical Mission Board, Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Christian Connections for International Health, Consortium of Universities for Global Health, Global Health Council, IMA World Health, InterAction, International Medical Corps, ONE Campaign, PATH, RESULTS, Save the Children, Shot@Life, The Partnership for Faith Development, U.S. Fund for UNICEF, World Renew, World Vision

Dear Colleague,

As one of the six original donors to the GAVI Alliance in 2000, the United States has long been a leader in supporting the Alliance's work to introduce new and underutilized vaccines in the poorest countries in the world. The GAVI Alliance is a unique public-private partnership dedicated to protecting children from vaccine-preventable diseases, with representation on its governing board from developing and donor governments, non-governmental organizations, multilateral health organizations like the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank and UNICEF, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, and the private sector.

From 2000-2013, the GAVI Alliance has supported the unprecedented immunization of 440 million children, which will save an estimated 6 million lives. And by 2015, it is on track to immunize almost a quarter of a billion more children.

The Alliance's progress shows that investing in cost effective immunization advances global health. Still worldwide, 20% of children born in the world do not have access to the most basic vaccines – that's more than 22 million children a year left unimmunized. In developing countries, children who die before the age of five and who miss out on life-saving vaccines are often those living in the hardest to reach areas, in marginalized communities, and in the poorest households.

In May 2014, the GAVI Alliance announced an effort to mobilize \$7.5 billion to immunize an additional 300 million children between 2016 and 2020. These resources would help save an additional 5-6 million lives.

According to the WHO, globally, only five percent of children are receiving all of the 11 recommended vaccines. In the next five year strategy, the GAVI Alliance will continue to focus on

increasing and expanding immunization coverage in developing countries for the leading killers of children, including pneumonia and deadly diarrhea from rotavirus.

To build on this momentum, Germany will host the GAVI Alliance's replenishment pledging conference in early 2015 to encourage global support for the GAVI Alliance's work. As part of this effort, the United States must also continue to lead the global community toward the end of preventable child deaths through our continued support for GAVI.

The upcoming 2016-2020 strategy period presents a tremendous opportunity to accelerate impact, reach more children with the power of vaccines, and ensure the gains made to date are sustained.

Please join us in voicing your support for continued U.S. engagement and commitment to the GAVI Alliance. For information, or to cosponsor the resolution, please contact Jenn Holcomb (McCollum) [Jenn.Holcomb@mail.house.gov] or Colin Swanson (Reichert) [Colin.Swanson@mail.house.gov].

Sincerely,



Betty McCollum

Member of Congress



Dave Reichert

Member of Congress
