

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 4, 2024

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear Mr. President,

Our country has long been committed to supporting life-saving nutrition investments to ensure brighter, more prosperous futures for children and families. Through long-term investments in health and development programs and emergency support in humanitarian contexts, the U.S. is a leader in the global charge to scale up cost-effective nutrition interventions. Every year, these interventions save and improve the lives of millions of women and children. As we approach the 2025 Paris Nutrition for Growth Summit, we are writing to request that the U.S. continue to build on America's global legacy by making an early pledge in the lead up to the next Summit. A strong and early signal of commitment from the U.S. will bring other donors to the table and galvanize action to deliver bold investments and programmatic outcomes that will contribute to ending global hunger and malnutrition.

U.S. investments in global nutrition are paying off: rates of stunting, a chronic and recurring form of malnutrition, have decreased in 17 of the 18 countries where USAID prioritizes its nutrition investments. However, in recent years, this progress has been threatened by challenges such as extreme weather, conflict, and economic shocks. Over one billion adolescent girls and women worldwide suffer from undernutrition, and malnutrition underlies nearly half of child deaths under age five. Although the problems are complex, decades of U.S. leadership, technical expertise, and strategic partnerships have allowed us to identify scalable solutions with proven impact. The strong evidence for the value of investing in nutrition has helped foster longstanding bipartisan support for these issues.

As the world prepares for the next Nutrition for Growth Summit, we request that you announce an early commitment at the UN General Assembly this September to showcase and build on the U.S. government's transformational nutrition leadership and set the bar for other governments and donors to make strong Nutrition for Growth pledges. In recent years, including the 2021 Nutrition for Growth Summit and 2022 Pledging to Save Lives event, U.S. pledges on malnutrition have been instrumental in mobilizing lifesaving financial, policy, and programmatic commitments from other global stakeholders. Many countries are looking to the U.S. for leadership and will be more likely to act in the wake of an early U.S. commitment to help ensure that no country shoulders the burden of malnutrition alone.

In addition to an early pledge, we request the U.S. commitment for Nutrition for Growth include strong funding for evidence-based interventions to detect, treat, and, most importantly, prevent global malnutrition, especially for women, infants, young children, and adolescent girls. Strong financial investments are necessary to ensure continued implementation of the Global

Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act, which passed in 2022 with overwhelming bipartisan support, and other critical U.S. strategies to bolster global nutrition and food security. A strong U.S. pledge should also focus on programmatic commitments to:

- Advance women’s and adolescent girls nutrition by accelerating progress against anemia and other micronutrient deficiencies;
- Strengthen food and health systems with a focus on building nutrition resilience;
- Prevent and treat more cases of child wasting;
- Protect, promote, and support optimal breastfeeding practices; and
- Increase transparency on U.S. nutrition appropriations, obligations, and spending.

Malnutrition remains one of the world’s most preventable tragedies. The human and economic costs are enormous; in addition to millions of preventable deaths, malnutrition costs the world \$3.5 trillion in lost productivity and healthcare costs each year. Smart investments in global nutrition now will support millions of children to live healthy, productive lives and help end the cycle of poverty and malnutrition once and for all. A strong, early Nutrition for Growth pledge from the U.S. will be critical to shoring up our country’s leadership on nutrition now and for the years to come.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your timely response and supporting the U.S.’s forthcoming commitment.

Sincerely,



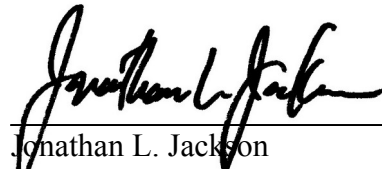
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Maria Elvira Salazar
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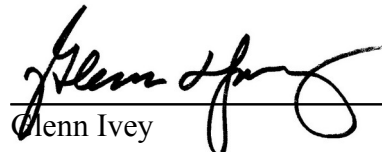
Eleanor Holmes Norton
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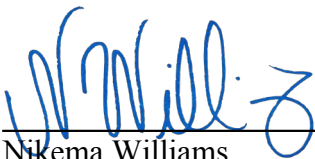
Jonathan L. Jackson
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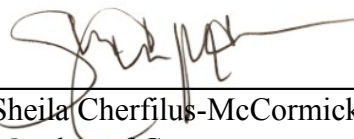
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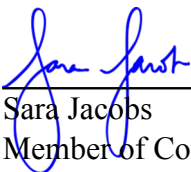
Glenn Ivey
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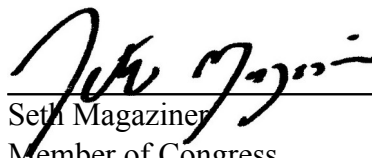
Nikema Williams
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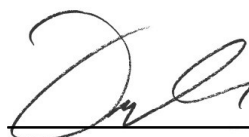
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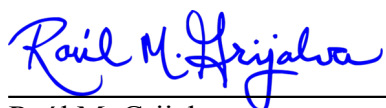
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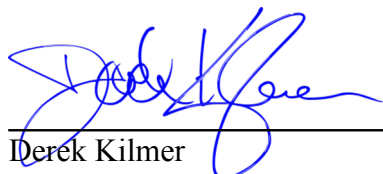
Earl Blumenauer
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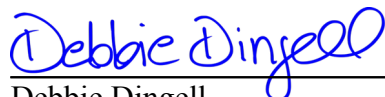
Cori Bush
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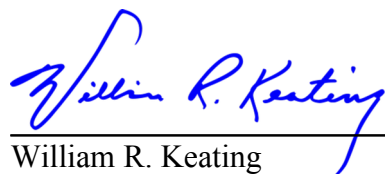
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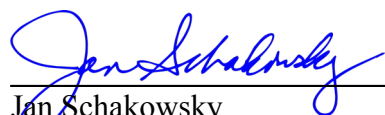
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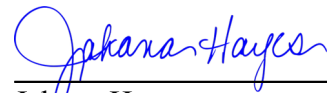
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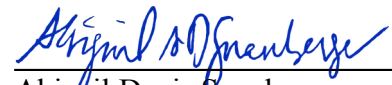
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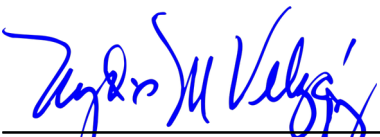
Abigail Davis Spanberger
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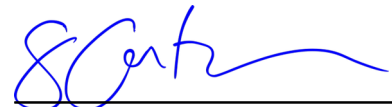
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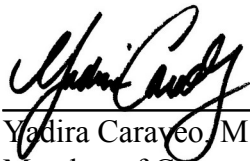
Sean Casten
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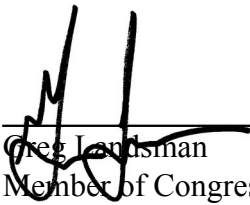
Marilyn Strickland
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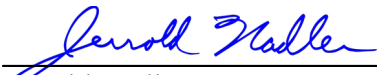
Ilhan Omar
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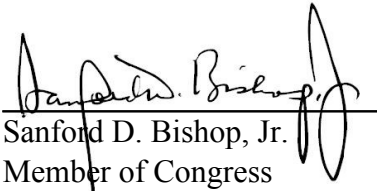
Yadira Caraveo, M.D.
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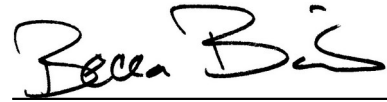
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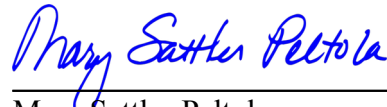
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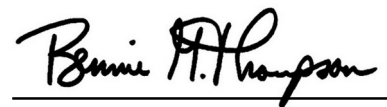
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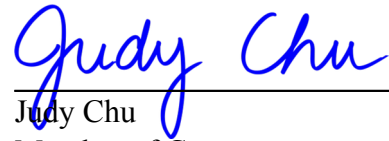
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Judy Chu
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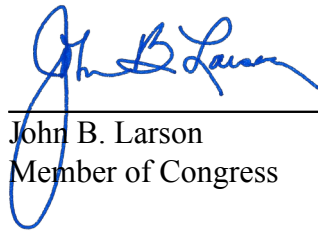
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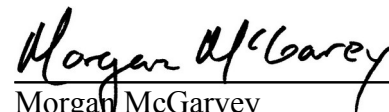
Mike Levin
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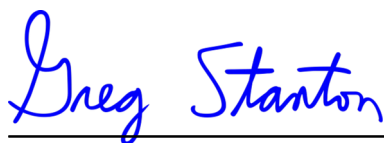
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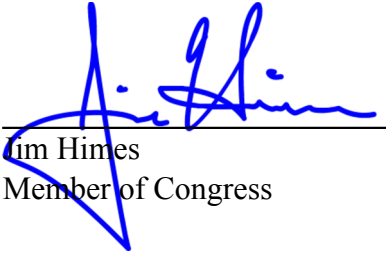
Jennifer L. McClellan
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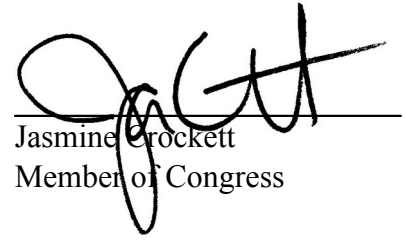
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