

December 11, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Enzi
Chairman
Senate Budget Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Diane Black
Chairman
House Budget Committee
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Ranking Member
Senate Budget Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Yarmuth
Ranking Member
House Budget Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders:

On behalf of Global Health Council, the leading alliance of non-profits, businesses, universities and individuals dedicated to saving lives and improving the health of people worldwide, the organizations below urge you to raise the non-defense discretionary (NDD) spending cap as part of Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 budget deal negotiations, which would allow sustained funding of global health programs at a minimum of Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 final enacted levels through the International Affairs (Function 150) and Health (Function 550) Accounts.

Strong funding for non-defense discretionary accounts is vital to uphold U.S. global health programs, which deliver outside returns in terms of saving lives around the world, generating goodwill, demonstrating U.S. leadership, and protecting American lives. U.S. investments in global health have contributed to a halving of preventable child deaths, a 60 percent decrease in deaths from malaria, and a 45 percent reduction in maternal mortality since 1990. It also supports life-saving antiretroviral treatment (ART) for 13.3 million men, women, and children, through the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). Importantly, these programs as well as commitments to the International Health Regulations and the Global Health Security Agenda also keep Americans safe from infectious diseases by supporting research, surveillance, and response efforts that prevent deadly pathogens from reaching the United States. For example, as a result of U.S. investments, the response time to stopping recent outbreaks in Cameroon decreased from 8 weeks to just 24 hours, which could be the difference between an isolated outbreak and a global catastrophe. This cannot be maintained without strong NDD funding.

Raising the non-defense discretionary cap is essential to ensuring development, diplomacy, and defense are working in tandem to promote a peaceful, stable, and prosperous world and protecting our national, health, and economic security at home. Global health is a core part of this mission. We urge funding for these critical

accounts not come at the expense of other effective humanitarian and development assistance programs. We cannot continue global progress, keep Americans safe and healthy, and prevent the deployment of our military, without strong investments in non-defense accounts.

We recognize the challenge of balancing competing priorities with limited resources; however, the United States must not retreat from its leadership in global health and programs that protect and save lives at home and around the world. We urge you to ensure that sequestration relief is equally balanced between nondefense and defense programs, as strong investments in both NDD are necessary to keep our country and the world safe, secure, and healthy.

Sincerely,

1. Advancing Synergy
2. American Heart Association
3. American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
4. American Thoracic Society
5. Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
6. AVAC
7. Center for Health and Gender Equity (CHANGE)
8. Church World Service
9. CORE Group
10. Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation
11. Friends of the Global Fight Against AIDS, TB and Malaria
12. GBCHealth
13. GHSAC
14. Global Citizen
15. Global Health Council
16. Global Health Technologies Coalition
17. Global Network of Black People working in HIV
18. Global Oncology
19. Infectious Diseases Society of America
20. International AIDS Vaccine Initiative
21. International Medical Corps
22. International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease
23. International Women's Health Coalition
24. IntraHealth International
25. John Snow, Inc
26. JSI Research and Training Institute
27. JSI/SPRING
28. Noncommunicable Disease (NCD) Roundtable
29. PAI
30. Partners In Health
31. PATH
32. Planned Parenthood Federation of America
33. Population Council
34. Public Health Institute
35. RESULTS
36. Sabin Vaccine Institute

37. Save the Children
38. Save the Children Action Network
39. Shot@Life
40. SPOON
41. TB Controllers
42. The Hunger Project
43. The Mectizan Donation Program
44. Treatment Action Group
45. Uniting to Combat Neglected Tropical Diseases
46. USP
47. Washington Global Health Alliance
48. WaterAid
49. World Education, Inc.
50. World Vision

CC: Chairs and Ranking Members of Senate and House Appropriations Committees
Chairs and Ranking Members of the Senate and House Subcommittees on State and Foreign Operations