

July 31, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair
The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chair
The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart, Chair
The Honorable Lois Frankel, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations, U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Brian Schatz, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs
Committee on Appropriations, United States Senate

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairman Diaz-Balart, Ranking Member Frankel, and Ranking Member Schatz:

We write as leaders of evangelical medical missions, global health, and humanitarian organizations to urge Congress to protect and strengthen America's life-saving investment in global health as you finalize FY2027 appropriations.

For 2,000 years, the Christian church has cared for the sick and carried good news in word and deed. The conviction that every human life bears the image of God has led our organizations to serve alongside the world's most vulnerable people for generations, in places American diplomacy and commerce rarely reach. We are not observers of U.S. global health policy; we are among its most experienced implementing partners.

U.S. global health investment is, by any measure, one of the most successful and cost-effective instruments of American foreign policy. PEPFAR alone has saved 26 million lives. These programs cost less than one percent of the federal budget. Yet this progress now faces a convergence of serious threats: proposed changes to how PEPFAR is implemented, delayed release of already-appropriated global health funding, and a historic disease outbreak in Central Africa that is testing the very systems these investments built.

We respectfully urge Congress to take the following actions in FY2027 appropriations legislation:

1. **Maintain robust global health funding.** Appropriate global health funding at or above FY2026 enacted levels, with clear direction that no funds may be used, directly or indirectly, to fund abortion.

2. **Preserve CDC's technical role in PEPFAR implementation.** Include statutory language directing the continuation of PEPFAR-related funding transfers to CDC and require congressional notification before any structural changes take effect.
3. **Ensure that previously appropriated funds are released and spent as directed.** Require regular reporting on fund disbursement and affirm that Congress-approved funding must be spent as intended, not indefinitely delayed or withheld (the principle behind the Impoundment Control Act).
4. **Require meaningful, enforceable inclusion of faith-based organizations.** Direct that bilateral health agreements include enforceable, not merely aspirational, requirements for faith-based implementing partners who deliver a substantial share of frontline healthcare in the countries these programs serve.

We recognize that reasonable people disagree about the best structure for U.S. global health assistance going forward, and we welcome reforms that increase accountability and efficiency. But reform and abandonment are not the same thing. The organizations signing this letter stand ready to be partners in building a more effective global health architecture. We ask that Congress act with the urgency this moment requires.

“Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute... defend the rights of the poor and needy” (Proverbs 31:8–9).

Respectfully,

SIGNATORIES

The undersigned sign in their individual professional capacity. Organizational affiliations are listed for identification purposes only and do not constitute endorsement by the organization.

Walter Kim

President
National Association of Evangelicals

Doug Fountain

Executive Director
Christian Connections for International Health

Kent Brantly, MD

Chief Operating Officer
Christian Health Service Corps

Timothy Crouch

Vice President for Alliance Missions
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

Scott C. Soden

Director of Brethren Global Partners and
Advancement
The Brethren Church

Dawn Stark

Director, Church Engagement
Operation Blessing

Dr. Joseph R. Johnson

Dean, Liberty University College of Medicine
Liberty University

Michael J. Soderling, MD/MBA

Director
Health for All Nations @ Frontier Ventures

Stephen P. Merry, MD, MPH

Family Medicine Physician and Global Health
Educator

Jon C. Tilburt, MD

Internist and Biomedical Ethicist

Board President, Compassion Evangelical Hospital,
Guinea; Board Member, Christian Health Service
Corps

Fraser Venter

Bishop
Free Methodist Church USA

Dr. Mike Chupp

Chief Executive Officer
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

Rev. Joshua D. Cramer

Lead Pastor
Resurrection Covenant Church, Boise

Barry Ewy

President and CEO
Blessings International

Scott Dooley, MD

Director
Center for Advancing Healthcare Missions, CMDA

Carl Nelson

President and CEO
Transform Minnesota: the evangelical network

Nicholas Comninellis, MD

President and Professor
Institute for International Medicine (INMED)

Daniel W. O'Neill, MD

Director, Global Health Institute, William Carey
International University; Managing Editor, Christian
Journal for Global Health

Victor Chen, MD, MPH

Public Health Advisor
Medical Ambassadors International

Kaye Kolde

Bishop
Free Methodist Church USA

Bruce Dahlman, MD

Faculty
Christian Academy of African Physicians

John G. Pierce, Jr., MD

Vice President of Missions and Medical Education
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

Peter Saunders

CEO
International Christian Medical and Dental
Association

Ivan Veldhuizen

Senior Vice President
Converge

Rev. Joseph Johns

Executive Director
World Partners (Missionary Church, USA)

Keir Thelander, MD

Executive Vice President
Pan-African Academy of Christian Surgeons

Jarrett W. Richardson III, MD

Internist, Psychiatrist, and Sleep Medicine Specialist
Chair Emeritus, Christian Medical & Dental
Associations

Rev. Grace Shim

Executive Minister, Serve Globally
Evangelical Covenant Church

Coordinated by the National Association of Evangelicals | NAE.org/forthehealth | SEng@NAE.org
Detailed data, sourcing, and policy background: see attached.